



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 25, 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 Sergeant, Jon Newton.

The following were also present in the audience: Viox & Viox, Brock MacKay; Resident of Florence, Angela Cable; Observer, Nancy Corman; Resident of Florence; Eric Bunzow; Northern Kentucky Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer; and Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-7-2023:

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

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-8-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-8-2023. An Ordinance of the City of Florence, Kentucky Adopting and Approving Water Service Rules and Regulations Relating to the Use, Operation, Extension and Improvement of the Florence, Kentucky Water Service System.

The effect of this Ordinance is to adopt Water Service Rules and Regulations relating to the use, operation, extension and improvement of the Florence, Kentucky Water Service System.

The full text of Ordinance O-8-2023, 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-8-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-9-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-9-2023. An Ordinance updating Ordinance No. O-40-85 to Identify and Create Nonelective Offices of the City of Florence, Kentucky to include: City Clerk; City Administrator; City Coordinator; Fire/EMS Chief; and Chief of Police. These Nonelective

City Offices are hereby established and created pursuant to KRS 83A.080 and other applicable law.

This Ordinance updates Ordinance No. O-48-85 relating to the identification and creation of nonelective offices in the City of Florence, Kentucky.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-9-2023. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-10-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-10-2023. An Ordinance updating Ordinance No. O-9-20 to remove Council Chambers as the location for holding Official Regular Meetings and Informal Informational Meetings of City Council.

This Ordinance updates Ordinance No. O-9-20 that amended a prior Ordinance No. O-20-19 of the City of Florence, Kentucky relating to the location for holding official regular meetings as well as informational meetings of City Council.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-10-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-11-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-11-2023. An Ordinance relating to the repeal of Ordinance No. O-300-67 providing for the establishment, management, control and operation of a Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Florence, Kentucky.

This Ordinance repeals Ordinance No. O-300-67 that established, managed and controlled the operations of a Park and Recreation Commission for the City of Florence, Kentucky.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Eric Hall, Public Services Director, with regard to the repeal of Ordinance O-300-67. Mr. Hall stated Ordinance O-300-67 was established in 1967 when the city acquired 15 acres, now known as Lincoln Woods Park. At the time, the city did not have a Public Services Department and council established the committee to oversee the maintenance of the park. In 1993, the city entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Boone County Fiscal Court for maintenance on the two city parks, Florence Nature Park and Lincoln Woods Park. During that time, the Public Services Department grew, as well as, the budget for the parks. In 2019, the Interlocal Agreement with Boone County was terminated and the Public Services Department took over maintenance of all seven city parks. Mr. Hall stated he did not believe the Parks and Recreation Commission established in 1967 is an efficient way to manage the current park system.

Councilmember Kemper disagreed and expressed desire to have further discussion prior to repealing the Ordinance. She wanted to explore the possibility of having citizen engagement for the parks and recreation within the city.

Councilmember Chambers agreed with Councilmember Kemper and believed city council should hold off on repealing Ordinance O-300-67. She wanted to possibly modify the Ordinance.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-11-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, no; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, no; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized four yes votes, and two no votes, approving the first reading of Ordinance O-11-2023.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-12-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-12-2023. An Ordinance relating to the repeal of Ordinance No. O-1-80 and Ordinance No. O-5-81 that Amended Ordinance No. O-1-80, these Ordinances being repealed herein relating to the Kentucky Model Procurement Code.

This Ordinance repeals Ordinance No. O-1-80 and Ordinance No. O-5-81 that amended Ordinance No. O-01-80 of the City of Florence, Kentucky relating to the Kentucky Model Procurement Code.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-12-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-13-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-13-2023. An Ordinance relating to purchase and procurement procedures to make a Contract, Lease or other Agreement for the procurement of materials, supplies, equipment, or contractual services other than exempt professional statutorily authorized services, pursuant to KRS 424.260 by the City of Florence, Kentucky.

This Ordinance relates to the purchase procedures and procurement to make a contract or other agreement for materials, supplies, equipment and contractual services pursuant to KRS 424.260.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-13-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MAYOR’S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone Spring Clean Up week was underway through Sunday, April 30. As a Florence resident, you 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. Call the Public Services Department at 859-647-5416 for additional information.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone beginning Saturday, May 6, the city will host the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit at the Florence Government Center. The exhibit will features artifacts from the World Trade Center and guided tours from New York Fire Department Firefighters who responded to Ground Zero on September 11. The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit will be open daily, May 6-14, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced Public Works Night Out would be held Tuesday, May 23, at the Florence Mall Parking lot from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone the city was still accepting applications for participants in the Memorial Day Parade. Application deadline to participate in the parade is May 15. Information and the application to participate can be found on the city website. Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone Gapper, the Cincinnati Reds Mascot, will be on the Councilmember and Mayor float in the parade.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the Florence Aquatic Center will open May 27 and hours of operation will be 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone for any concerns or inquiries within the city, the city has the Florence Y’all mobile and an online service request system. The Florence Y’all app allows residents to identify issues and report those service requests directly to the Public Services Department. Resident can upload a photo or video of the concern and mark the location on a map. Each request will be tracked for follow up. Requests may be submitted online, using a smartphone, or other mobile device.

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 informed everyone at the Spring DEA National Prescription Take Back Day on April 22, the Florence Police Department led the region in collections, receiving approximately 209 pounds of unused prescription medication.

Members of the Audience:

Angela Cable, Resident of Florence, requested Florence City Council pass a similar Ordinance to the Ordinance passed in Erlanger permitting urban hens. She stated she is very persistent and is determined to have council pass a similar Ordinance. Following the Caucus Meeting on April 18, Mrs. Cable stated she performed additional research regarding the benefits of urban hens. Additionally, she reviewed studies performed by the University of Kentucky. Mrs. Cable explained the benefits of hens and potential concerns. Should urban hens be permitted, Mrs. Cable stated she would possibly enact training programs. Additionally, Mrs. Cable stated PETA considers urban hens to live a plush life.

Following her discussion with Business and Community Development Director, Joshua Hunt, Mrs. Cable stated she is aware that an amendment must be made to the Boone County Text Regulations. She requested city council make that request and offered her assistance. Since the previous meeting, Mrs. Cable stated she conducted a poll on Facebook and the results were 3-1 in favor of permitting chickens. She requested city council's approval to move forward and expressed her appreciation of their time to listen.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to Mrs. Cable's poll. Mrs. Cable stated the poll identified 67% for chickens and 31% were against chickens. Mrs. Cable felt people want to lead a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. She stated her neighbors support her and have no objections to her having chickens.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to the process in Elsmere. Mrs. Cable stated Elsmere was running a pilot program.

Mayor Aubuchon stated a zone change would have to be initiated in Florence. The Ordinance in Erlanger and pilot program in Elsmere was not applicable.

Mrs. Cable requested city council proceed with a possible text amendment with the Boone County Planning Commission and requested the process be initiated.

Councilmember Kemper stated she appreciated Mrs. Cable's passion and research on the topic. However, she stated she is restricted by her Homeowners Association and stated a majority of Florence would be as well. Councilmember Kemper believes residents live in neighborhoods with a Homeowners Association because they want stricter regulations. Councilmember Kemper expressed willingness to discuss the matter of chickens further as there were not many farming opportunities remaining in Boone County.

Mrs. Cable believed if Florence would permit chickens, she could possibly challenge Homeowners Associations to permit chickens within the city. Councilmember Kemper did not believe Homeowners Associations would permit chickens.

Mayor Aubuchon expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Cable's passion and commented on her kind demeanor. While she respected Mrs. Cable's passion, she did believe a majority of residents would not want chickens.

Mrs. Cable inquired as to what could be done to obtain opinions from residents.

Mayor Aubuchon encouraged councilmembers to inform her if they were interested in discussing the matter further.

Nancy Corman, neighbor of Mrs. Cable, inquired where she could obtain information stating residents did not want chickens.

Mayor Aubuchon requested Mr. Hunt obtain Mrs. Corman's information and provide her with information with regard to the chickens. Mr. Hunt stated it was not just a chicken issue but rather the definition of the zoning text household agriculture.

Mrs. Corman inquired as to the difference between chickens and a dog kennel. She has a dog kennel and was curious as to if chickens were caged why they would not be permitted. She does not mind chickens if they are caged and not free range.

Mr. Hunt stated he would be happy to meet with Mrs. Corman and Mrs. Cable to review and explain the zoning text.

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 Wingo so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:34 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

