



**Florence City Council
Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in special session on Tuesday, May 2, 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 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: Mel Carroll, Lesley Chambers, Jenna Kemper (Vice-Mayor), David A. Osborne, Patricia Wingo and Gary Winn.

Staff members present were: Assistant City Attorney, Thomas R. 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 Clerk, Melissa Kramer; and Police Lieutenant, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present in the audience: Florence Fire/EMS Department new employee, Firefighter/EMT, Brayden Collins; 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; Board of Assessment Appointee, Carol Reinhardt; Resident of Florence, Angela Cable; 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 25, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Aubuchon issued a Proclamation acknowledging May 4, 2023 as Firefighters' Day and May 21-27, 2023 as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of Florence reading the following Proclamation into record:

***WHEREAS**, firefighting and emergency medical services are a vital public service; and*

***WHEREAS**, personnel from the City of Florence Fire/EMS Department are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and*

***WHEREAS**, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and*

***WHEREAS**, firefighters often put the safety and wellbeing of others above their own; and*

***WHEREAS**, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and*

***WHEREAS**, the members of firefighting and emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of the City of Florence Fire/EMS Department by designating Emergency Medical Services Week and Firefighter's Day.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, I, Julie M. Aubuchon, Mayor of the City of Florence, Kentucky, and on behalf of the members of Florence City Council, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2023 as Firefighter's Day and the week of May 21-27, 2023 as Emergency Medical Services Week and further extend appreciation to members of our City of Florence Fire/EMS Department.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 2nd day of May, 2023.*

OATH OF OFFICE:

Rodney Wren, Fire/EMS Chief, introduced the newest member of the Florence Fire/EMS Department, Firefighter/EMT Brayden Collins. Chief Wren stated Brayden was born and raised in Florence. Brayden graduated from Covington Catholic High School after a well decorated football and wrestling career. During his time in athletics, Brayden realized he enjoyed the brotherhood aspect and believed firefighting was an extension of that brotherhood. Chief Wren stated the fire service inspired Brayden because of the thought of helping and impacting others and being a part of something bigger than himself. After graduating high school, Brayden obtained his EMT-basic license and attended Great Oaks Fire Academy, graduating in December 2022. Chief Wren stated Brayden has worked part-time at Crescent Springs Villa Hills Fire Department and came highly recommended by numerous people throughout Northern Kentucky. Chief Wren informed everyone Chief Grau had been a longtime family friend of Brayden.

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

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-8-2023. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-9-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Kemper. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-10-2023. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Carroll. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

SECOND 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.

Councilmember Kemper reiterated while she understood the commission was no longer viable, she would like city council to explore the possibility of a committee.

Councilmember Chambers expressed desire for city council to recreate the board instead of hiring consultants to inform the city what to do with parks and recreation. She believed the board was a much better option for the citizens.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the second 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 second reading of Ordinance O-11-2023.**

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-12-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-13-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Kemper. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-14-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Business & Community Development Director, Joshua J. Hunt, with regard to the zoning map amendment.

Mr. Hunt identified the location of the property and explained the house was constructed in the 1930s as a single family house and later rezoned to a commercial property. The current request is to change the zoning from Commercial Two (C-2) to Suburban Residential Two (SR-2). Mr. Hunt advised the Boone County Planning Commission recommended approval with a condition that the garage have a door installed. He stated the Florence Planning & Zoning Committee met and recommended approval with two additional conditions. Their conditions included the commercial sign removed and removal of the yellow stripes in the parking lot.

Councilmember Carroll inquired whether the intent of the property was to be used as a short term rental. Mr. Hunt replied no. He stated if the owner wanted to use the property as a short term rental, they would be required to submit a short term rental application and go through the process of approval with the Florence Board of Adjustment.

Councilmember Chambers requested clarification with regard to the use of property. Mr. Hunt stated the owner's intent was to rent the house as a single family house.

Councilmember Wingo made a motion to take action on Ordinance O-14-2023 with a second from Councilmember Osborne. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-14-2023. An Ordinance Adopting and Approving a Zoning Map Amendment from Commercial Two (C-2) to Suburban Residential Two (SR-2) for the approximate 0.48 acre site located at 7309 Dixie Highway, Florence, Kentucky, to allow the existing building to be used as a single-family home for rental. (Banklick Real Estate Holdings, LLC)

The Ordinance adopts and approves a zoning map amendment from Commercial Two (C-2) to Suburban Residential Two (SR-2) for an approximate 0.48 acre site located at 7309 Dixie Highway, to allow an existing building to be used as a single-family home for rental.

The full text of Ordinance O-14-2023 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 Blvd., Florence, Kentucky, during regular office hours.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-14-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-7-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-7-2023. A Municipal Order approving the Appointment of Carol Reinhardt to the Boone County Board of Assessment Appeals for a three (3) year term. Mayor Aubuchon informed councilmembers they received a Memorandum in their packet with regard to Mrs. Reinhardt's information and introduced Mrs. Reinhardt in the audience.

Mayor Aubuchon opened the floor for questions or discussion and stated Mrs. Reinhardt was a member of Plantation Pointe Homeowners Association and had property management experience.

Councilmember Chambers inquired whether city council was voting on the Municipal Order.

Mayor Aubuchon replied yes and stated the item was on the agenda as discussion and possible action.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to take action on the Municipal Order MO-7-2023 with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-7-2023. A Municipal Order approving the Appointment of Carol Reinhardt to the Boone County Board of Assessment Appeals for a three (3) year term.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-7-2023. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-7-2023 with a second from Councilmember Wingo.

Councilmember Chambers inquired whether city council was voting.

Councilmember Wingo replied yes.

Councilmember Chambers stated she did not believe city council would take action tonight.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the item was on the agenda as discussion and possible action.

Councilmember Wingo and Councilmember Carroll explained to Councilmember Chambers the meeting was a Special Meeting.

Mayor Aubuchon explained the meeting was a Special Meeting and city council was only permitted to cover what was on the agenda. She stated councilmembers had been voting and taking action since the beginning of the meeting.

Councilmember Chambers stated she believed city council was taking action to put on the agenda for action at the next meeting.

Mayor Aubuchon replied no and explained the process of the Special Meeting.

Councilmember Carroll explained to Councilmember Chambers the meeting was not a Caucus Meeting and was a Special Meeting.

Councilmember Chambers requested Mrs. Reinhardt provide her qualifications and information.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Mrs. Reinhardt and informed councilmembers information was provided in their packet regarding Mrs. Reinhardt.

Mrs. Reinhardt stated she worked in property management for eighteen years as the Office Manager for the Hines Company in Cincinnati. The Hines Company is worldwide and all the property they manage are Class A. As part of her duties, she worked with property taxes, tenants and provided customer service. Mrs. Reinhardt explained she is familiar with property taxes. Mrs. Reinhardt informed city council she currently serves on the Board of Directors for her Homeowners Association, as well as, serves on the Board of Directors for a small thrift shop where she volunteers three days a week. Mrs. Reinhardt stated she had been a resident of Florence for sixteen years and prior, a resident of Union for twenty-five years. Mrs. Reinhardt was married and explained her husband passed away last year. She has two sons, one currently serving in the Army having just achieved the rank of Major. She expressed her excitement and stated she was going to the ceremony on Friday. Her other son works as an IT Manager for DHL and expressed admiration of both her sons.

Mayor Aubuchon thanked Mrs. Reinhardt for attending the meeting.

Councilmember Carroll expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Reinhardt and thanked her volunteering her time to serve on the board.

Following the discussion with regard to the Motion to Approve Municipal Order MO-7-2023 for the Appointment of Carol Reinhardt to the Boone County Board of Assessment Appeals for a three (3) year term by Councilmember Winn and a second from Councilmember Wingo, **all councilmembers present voted aye.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-8-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Business & Community Development Director, with regard to Municipal Order MO-8-2023 for the Interlocal Consortium Agreement pursuant to KRS 65.210.

Mr. Hunt stated the HOME program assists eligible first time homeowners with down payment funds of up to \$10,000 to purchase a home. He stated the city had not ever participated in the program. The program has certain requirements for the participating families including attending pre-purchase counseling, debt income ratio requirements, and interest rates requirements. Mr. Hunt explained the loan is forgiven after ten years and the homeowner is not required to pay on the loan as long as they reside in the home. Other cities including Covington, Erlanger, and Elsmere currently participate in the HOME program.

Councilmember Carroll stated he was familiar with the program and was happy for the city to be participating.

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to take action on Municipal Order MO-8-2023 with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-8-2023. A Municipal Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Interlocal Consortium Agreement pursuant to KRS 65.210 Et. Seq. with the cities of Bellevue, Covington, Erlanger, Ludlow and Newport to join a Consortium that is eligible to receive funding as a participating Jurisdiction for the HOME Program.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-8-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-8-2023 with a second from Councilmember Carroll. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone Saturday, May 6, the city will host the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit at the Florence Government Center. The exhibit will feature 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. There will be an opening ceremony on Saturday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone the BAWAC Community Rehabilitation Center will host their 50th Anniversary Celebration with a Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at their location, 7970 Kentucky Drive, Florence.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone Public Works Night Out would be held on Tuesday, May 23, at the Florence Mall Parking lot from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Mayor Aubuchon encouraged everyone to come out.
- 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 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 extended congratulations to Tom Talbert with the Fire/EMS Department on his retirement from the city on April 7.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced with a very heavy heart that long-time City Attorney, and pillar of the Florence community, Mr. Hugh O. Skees, passed away peacefully on Monday surrounded by loved ones. He was preceded in death by his wife, Deanna Skees, who was equally respected and a beloved member of the Florence community until her passing in January of 2013. Mayor Aubuchon stated they are the namesakes of the Skees Senior Activity Center on Highway 42 and read his obituary:

Hugh Owen Skees, age 83, of Florence, KY passed away peacefully in his home on May 1, 2023 surrounded by his loved ones. Hugh was born in Cairo, Illinois, but lived all over the world as

the son of Army Colonel Hugh Shelby Skees. Hugh graduated from the University of Louisville and Brandeis School of Law.

When asked how to describe Hugh, the answer was different for everyone who met him, but all were better for having known him. From the courtroom to the golf course to the fields with his beloved hunting dogs, he made life-long friends and served those he loved with loyalty and generosity. He was a mentor for many and served the City of Florence for over 50 years both as City Attorney and Family Court Judge. He was pivotal in ushering in an era of economic growth in Florence which spanned decades.

A scratch golfer and forever a sportsman, he loved the Louisville Cardinals, horse racing, fishing, and hunting. He was an avid reader, especially of military history. A true renaissance man whose presence embodied a dignified humility.

He was preceded in death by his wife Deanna Hurt Skees of Florence who passed away in 2013, and sister Vesta Skees Gettys of Norman, OK. He is survived by his niece Ann Gettys and her son Grant Hall of Norman, OK, his god-son Patrick Osborne (Annie) of Nashville, TN, and his loving partner and best friend, Lisa Reeves of Florence.

In lieu of flowers, to honor his love of World War II and military planes, memorial donations can be made in Hugh Owen Skees' honor to the Tri-State Warbird Museum. Donations can be made online at TSWM.org or mailed to 4021 Borman Drive, Batavia, OH 45103 ATTN: Denise Eldridge.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the city was blessed to have worked with Mr. Skees in his capacity as City Attorney. His knowledge, background and history with the city provided the city with the kind of legal advice only he could provide. She stated he could never be replaced and thanked him for his many years of service.

CLOSED SESSION:

There was no need for Closed Session.

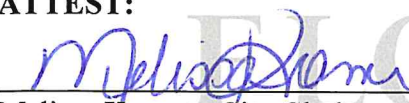
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Councilmember Wingo so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:31p.m.

APPROVED:


Julie M. Aubuchon, Mayor

ATTEST:


Melissa Kramer, City Clerk