



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

MINUTES

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

Staff members present were: City Attorney, Thomas R. Nienaber; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Chief of Police, Tom Grau; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Director of Administration/City Administrator, Joshua J. 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: Resident of Florence, Carolyn Blanton; Resident of Florence, Brad Cable; Resident of Florence, Angela Cable; Resident of Florence, Stacey Arnett; Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd; Resident of Florence, Nancy Corman; and Northern Kentucky Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Wingo.

Councilmember Chambers voiced concern with regard to the correction of the previous meeting minutes and how the correction was noted in the minutes. Councilmember Chambers believed the correction should have been verbatim noting Mayor Aubuchon's statement of not having received any applications with regard to a Code Board appointee. Councilmember Chambers requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect her statements at the previous meeting.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the minutes were corrected in the June 13, 2023 meeting to reflect the correction and Councilmember Chambers agreed. However, Councilmember Chambers stated the minutes presented for approval did not provide verbatim commentary and only a summary of the correction in the minutes offered for June 27, 2023.

Councilmember Wingo did not believe verbatim minutes were necessitated and the minutes provided now were considerably more than previous meeting minutes.

No further discussion was necessitated and based on the motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 business meeting by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Wingo, Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Chambers, no; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, abstention; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized three yes votes, one abstention and one no vote, approving the June 27, 2023 business meeting minutes.**

SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-19-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-19-2023. An Ordinance adopting and approving a Zoning Map Amendment from Union Commercial/Planned Development (UC/PD) to Urban Residential One/Planned Development (UR-1/PD) for an approximate 0.5 acre site located at 2011 Terrace Court, Florence, Kentucky, to allow the development of six (6) attached single-family residential units. (Terrace Townhomes, LLC)

The Ordinance adopts and approves a zoning map amendment from Union Commercial/Planned Development (UC/PD) to Urban Residential One/Planned Development (UR-1/PD) for an approximate 0.5 acre site located at 2011 Terrace Court, Florence, Kentucky, to allow the development of six (6) attached single-family residential units.

The full text of Ordinance O-19-2023 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 second reading of Ordinance O-19-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Kemper. Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized five yes votes approving the second reading of Ordinance O-19-2023 by unanimous vote.**

MAYOR’S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone the Independence Day Celebration on July 3 was a success. She expressed her appreciation for all the city personnel, vendors, volunteers and community partners that made the event happen.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the 36th Annual Boone County Senior Picnic was scheduled for September 13 at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Tickets will be available for purchase for residents 55+ beginning August 1, 2023. Purchase tickets at the Florence Finance Department and the Florence Senior Center.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the City of Florence will host a National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Florence Government Center. The Police Department, Public Services Department, and Fire/EMS Department will have equipment on display. There will be vendors and food will be provided to attendees. She stated it is a great opportunity to connect with city officials, city personnel and councilmembers.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the Kiwanis of Boone County had organized a school supply drive benefiting Boone County Schools Youth Services Center until August 4. The Florence Government Center has a drop box in the lobby for donations. Supplies requested are backpacks, three ring binders, pencils, markers and healthy snacks.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the next Summer Concert Series will be held Friday, August 11 at the Florence Mall, lower level parking area by the Macy’s Home Store. The concert will feature opening act music by “School of Rock House Band” and headlining act “London Street”. There will be food trucks and beverages available for purchase and activities for kids. She encouraged everyone to come to the free concert and bring your lawn chair.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Chambers expressed her appreciation of the Independence Day Celebration.

Councilmember Kemper informed everyone the swim team had a dive meet ongoing at the Florence Aquatic Center and invited all to stop over after the meeting.

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.

Director of Administration/City Administrator, Joshua J. Hunt:
Mr. Hunt did not desire recognition.

Members of the Audience:

Carolyn Blanton, Resident of Florence, inquired of what the city was doing with regard to the encampment at Mary Rose Mission and the homeless population within the city.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Chief of Police, Chief Grau. Chief Grau stated the city is aware and they are working through the proper channels to handle the matter and assured Ms. Blanton the police department is doing all they can legally.

Councilmember Kemper stated she spoke with Ms. Blanton following the last meeting and encouraged the community to reach out and help the city to collaborate.

Stacey Arnett, Resident of Florence, inquired with regard to the loitering ordinance within the city and the bums within the city. She expressed concern particularly in the Turfway area.

Mayor Aubuchon stated that is the reason for the newly created position with the city to collaborate with Boone County while they develop a sheltering plan. She stated they are many service providers in the area Ms. Arnett mentioned and the city is doing what they can legally.

Chief Grau stated while it is not an easy solution, he assured Ms. Arnett the city is working on resolving the issue and investigating ways to improve and provide assistance for those in need.

Ms. Arnett asked with regard to the loitering ordinance. Chief Grau explained the state had done away with the loitering laws. Therefore, the department uses the state statute to trespass individuals from businesses when the property owner requests. He explained they are unable to remove individuals from private property unless they are provided permission.

Angela Cable, Resident of Florence, expressed her concern with the correction to the meeting minutes and inquired whether all meetings would be livestreamed once the renovation had been completed to the Council Chambers.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the meetings would be taped and she was unsure of the format the meetings would be posted to the web. Mayor Aubuchon stated the meetings would be posted to the web.

Mrs. Cable inquired whether the meetings would be archived and if individuals could go back and watch the meeting. Mayor Aubuchon stated the recordings would have to be archived and she was unsure with regard to the streaming of the meetings.

Mrs. Cable inquired with regard to the retention schedules of records within the city.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the city followed the guidelines set forth by the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives and called upon City Clerk, Melissa Kramer, to explain. Mrs. Kramer explained the city departments adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives and informed Mrs. Cable she can review the schedules online at their website.

Mrs. Cable stated she had inquired with regard to the retention schedules based on a request she made for 2019 and was informed there were no records for the request.

Mayor Aubuchon stated that while she did not know what the request was for, it was possible that it was not something the city was required to record.

Mrs. Cable stated Florence is one of the best cities in the state and based on Mayor Aubuchon's State of the City speech with regard to transparency, Mrs. Cable stated she would hold Mayor Aubuchon accountable with regards to transparency.

Mayor Aubuchon stated she believed Mrs. Cable was equating verbatim minutes with transparency and the City Clerk could review the requirements with her to help her understand.

Mrs. Cable stated she believed the correction to the minutes showed a lack of transparency and she understood the difference between verbatim and transparency. Mrs. Cable stated that if things seem to be hidden, that showed a lack of transparency.

Mayor Aubuchon thanked Mrs. Cable for her comments.

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 Winn so moved, with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

