



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

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, July 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: City Attorney, Thomas R. Nienaber; CFO/HR, Linda Chapman; 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, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present in the audience: Kentucky EMS for Children, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services Representative, Morgan Scaggs, BHS, NRS; Florence Fire/EMS Captain, David Curtis; Firefighter/Paramedic, Candice Biltz; Firefighter/EMT, Reed Bertke; Resident of Florence, Carolyn Blanton; 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 July 11, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**RECOGNITION OF FLORENCE FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT:**

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Morgan Scaggs, BHS, NRS, Kentucky EMS for Children, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Ms. Scaggs stated the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, through the Kentucky EMS for Children Program, has established Pediatric Readiness programs to recognize and regulate EMS agencies and hospital emergency departments to meet national benchmarks to improve care provided to children. Ms. Scaggs explained the program requirements and pediatric readiness in emergency medical services. On behalf of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, Ms. Scaggs recognized and presented the Florence Fire/EMS Department with a certificate for their commitment to recognize pediatric emergency care. Additionally, the Fire/EMS Department will receive decals for their emergency vehicles. Ms. Scaggs explained this is an annual program and the department will be required to report every year to provide the best care for the children of Florence.

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-21-2023:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-21-2023. An Ordinance relating to lateral transfers of experienced officers from other police departments to join the Florence Police Department and experienced firefighters, EMTs or paramedics from other fire departments to join the Florence Fire/EMS Department.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to make adjustments to the Lateral Transfer Policy in order to correct potential inconsistencies in Ordinance No. O-16-15 and O-09-19.

The full text of Ordinance O-21-2023 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-21-2023. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Carroll. Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized six yes votes approving the first reading of Ordinance O-21-2023 by unanimous vote.**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-22-2023:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-22-2023. An Ordinance establishing the Florence Business Building Façade Upgrades Grant Program in the City of Florence.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to encourage the rehabilitation and enhancement of buildings, to promote economic growth and investment, and to improve Florence's desirability and long-term viability within designated areas of Florence. The Ordinance outlines a grant payment program

whereby qualifying property owners in designated areas within Florence may make application for grant assistance for the rehabilitation and enhancement of qualifying structures.

The full text of Ordinance O-22-2023 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-22-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to section 2.11 in the ordinance requesting a design professional as part of the requirements and provided an example of a paint job and the possible expense for a small business. In reference to Councilmember Chambers example, Mr. Hunt explained the business could go to a paint store, take a picture of the paint scheme and provide the photo scheme as part of the requirement. Mr. Hunt explained the main objective is to ensure applicants do not do the improvements or designs themselves.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to the limit on the funds which will be expended through the program annually. Mr. Hunt replied the amount allocated in the budget for the year which is \$100,000. As this is the initial year for the program, the city will review for future years.

No further discussion was necessitated and based on the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-22-2023 by Councilmember Wingo, seconded by Councilmember Winn, Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized six yes votes approving the first reading of Ordinance O-22-2023 by unanimous vote.**

### **FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-23-2023:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-23-2023. An Ordinance of the City of Florence, Kentucky establishing an Economic Incentive and Grant Program to Demolish Abandoned and Blighted Real Estate.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide financial assistance to qualified property owners in Florence to encourage the removal of abandoned, blighted, and undesirable structures. The Ordinance is intended to increase revenue, job creation, decrease blight and enhance property tax values.

The full text of Ordinance O-23-2023 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-23-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo.

Councilmember Carroll explained and shared information with regard to the incentive of the program.

Councilmember Chambers wanted to confirm the program was eligible for residential and commercial properties. Mr. Hunt stated yes and explained as long as the structure is the primary structure within the property boundary.

Councilmember Chambers inquired with regard to the budgeted amount for the fiscal year. Mr. Hunt did not have the budgeted amount but believed it was \$100,000- \$150,000.

No further discussion was necessitated and based on the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-23-2023 by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Councilmember Wingo, Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized six yes votes approving the first reading of Ordinance O-23-2023 by unanimous vote.**

#### **FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-24-2023:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-24-2023. An Ordinance of the City of Florence, Kentucky establishing the City of Florence City Official Training Program.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a training program consistent with the authorization granted by KRS 64.5278. The Ordinance adopts a training incentive program designed to encourage qualifying City officials to pursue educational opportunities and advanced training to enhance and promote efficient operation of City government.

The full text of Ordinance O-24-2023 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-24-2023. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized six yes votes approving the first reading of Ordinance O-24-2023 by unanimous vote.**

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

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Boone County Senior Picnic is scheduled for September 13 at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Tickets will go on sale next Tuesday, August 1 for residents 55 and over. Purchase tickets at the Florence Finance Department and the Florence Senior Center.

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the City of Florence will host a National Night Out 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 reminded everyone the Kiwanis of Boone County has organized a school supply drive benefiting Boone County Schools Youth Services Center until August 4. There is a drop box in the Florence Government Center lobby. Supplies needed are backpacks, three ring binders, pencils, markers and healthy snacks.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the next Summer Concert Series will be held Friday, August 11 at the Florence Mall, Lower level parking area by 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 all 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:

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.

Director of Administration/City Administrator, Joshua J. Hunt:

Mr. Hunt did not desire recognition.

Members of the Audience:

Angela Cable, Resident of Florence, expressed her concern and opinions with regard to the grant and façade programs on the east side of Florence and the homelessness issue. Based on her concerns, Mrs. Cable explained she created a Facebook group in conjunction with the "Buy Nothing Project". The "Buy Nothing Project" is a platform that encourages giving, receiving, sharing, lending and expressing gratitude. With the goal to assist the community, she hosted a free yard sale the past weekend at her residence which had an incredible turnout. Any remaining items

left after the sale were donated. As a result of the success of the sale, she received permission from her church to lead a ministry to provide for the community and those in need. Mrs. Cable informed everyone they will host their next free yard sale on Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Torch Community Church located at 6767 Hopeful Church Road. In addition to the free yard sale, Mrs. Cable is also organizing a school supply drive and collecting supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, folders and essentially any items found on local school supplies lists. Mrs. Cable is hopeful to be able to continue the free yard sales even in the colder months inside the church. She explained that once she is able to establish the homeless ministry, she will provide the details to Vice Mayor Kemper to pass the information along to the social worker in their new role to facilitate the need of people experiencing homelessness or those struggling. Mrs. Cable expressed her desire for the city to provide the funds of the grants to all the residents of the city rather than just beautifying the east side.

Mayor Aubuchon thanked Mrs. Cable for her comments.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(b) acquisition/sale of real property - where publicity would be likely to affect the value of property to be acquired for public use or to be sold by the city.

Councilmember Winn so moved with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:23 p.m.** Mayor Aubuchon advised they would return to the room to adjourn and did not anticipate any further business taking place following Closed Session.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to come back into session after the Closed Session. Councilmember Wingo so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:43 p.m.**

**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 6:44 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

