



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 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: City Attorney, Thomas R. Nienaber; CFO/HR, Linda Chapman; Fire/EMS Assistant Chief, Chris Miller; Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; Director of Administration/City Administrator, Joshua J. Hunt; City Engineer, Bill Viox; Assistant City Clerk, Brandi Roundtree; Videographer, Perry Weber; and Police Sergeant, Jon Newton.

The following were also present in the audience: St. Elizabeth Healthcare Representative, Betty McGee, Clinical Education Specialist; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Chief Nursing Officer, Christy Miller; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Senior Vice President/Chief Operator Officer, Bruno Giacomuzzi, FACHE; Florence Fire/EMS Captain, David Curtis; Lieutenant /Paramedic Rick Puryear; Firefighter/Paramedic, Danielle Eilerman; Firefighter/Paramedic, Joe Marlow; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Heart and Vascular Institute System Director, Mike Harris; Florence Fire/EMS Department Personnel; Resident of Florence, Sara Austin; Resident of Florence, Angela Cable; Resident of Florence, Naomi Liebson; Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd; LINK nky Reporter, Douglas Clark; and Northern Kentucky Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Wingo. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Betty McGee, Clinical Education Specialist, with St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

On behalf of the American Heart Association and St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Ms. McGee was in attendance to recognize Florence Fire/EMS personnel. Ms. McGee stated during the month of May 2023, Florence Fire/EMS Personnel were involved in the transport of a stroke patient leading to the fastest door to needle delivery of t-PA for the St. Elizabeth Healthcare system. She explained the program, which began in 2010 by the American Heart Association, and the additional incentive of a challenge coin for the upcoming year. Ms. McGee recognized and thanked Lieutenant/Paramedic Rick Puryear and Firefighter/Paramedic Danielle Eilerman for their exceptional service presenting them with a certificate and a pink brain pin.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Chris Miller for the next recognition received by the Florence Fire/EMS Department. Assistant Chief Miller called upon Mike Harris on behalf of St. Elizabeth Medical Center and the Gateway Community and Technical College Program.

On behalf of St. Elizabeth Medical Center and the Gateway Community and Technical College Program, Mr. Harris recognized Florence Fire/EMS Personnel, student of Gateway Community and Technical College Program, Firefighter/Paramedic, Joe Marlow. Mr. Harris presented Firefighter/Paramedic, Joe Marlow, with the Gateway Community and Technical College Paramedic Education Program/St. Elizabeth Healthcare Field Preceptor of the Year Award.

Assistant Chief Miller also informed everyone the Florence Fire/EMS Department received the American Heart Association Silver Line Recognition. Assistant Chief Miller explained the Mission: Lifeline EMS is the American Heart Association's national initiative to advance the system of care for patients with high-risk, time-sensitive disease states, such as severe heart attacks and strokes. Assistant Chief Miller stated the Florence Fire/EMS was honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association.

Mayor Aubuchon commended the Florence Fire/EMS Department and their personnel.

Councilmember Carroll expressed his appreciation for the Florence Fire/EMS Department and the services they provide to the citizens of Florence and those that come to our community daily.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon recognized St. Elizabeth Healthcare for their achievement of Magnet designation reading the following Proclamation into record:

WHEREAS, the City of Florence recognizes St. Elizabeth Healthcare for their remarkable achievement in earning the prestigious Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program; and

WHEREAS, the Magnet designation serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of St. Elizabeth Healthcare to excellence in nursing philosophy and practice, outstanding patient care, and a dedication to upholding national standards for healthcare improvement; and

WHEREAS, St. Elizabeth Healthcare has consistently demonstrated unparalleled proficiency in the nursing profession, showcasing their exceptional teamwork and unity to ensure the highest quality of patient care; and,

WHEREAS, the achievement of the magnet designation is an accomplishment that puts them among an elite group, as less than 10% of the hospitals nationwide can claim such a prestigious status; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Florence extends our sincere gratitude to the nursing staff, administrators, and all healthcare professionals associated with St. Elizabeth Healthcare for their unwavering dedication to delivering exceptional patient care and their continuous efforts to elevate the nursing profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Julie M. Aubuchon, Mayor of the City of Florence, Kentucky, and on behalf of the members of Florence City Council, do hereby recognize and commend St. Elizabeth Healthcare for their outstanding accomplishment in achieving the Magnet designation and we urge all citizens of Florence to join us in expressing our gratitude and admiration for St. Elizabeth Healthcare and their unparalleled pledge of commitment to excellence in healthcare.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 8th day of August, 2023.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon St. Elizabeth Healthcare Chief Nursing Officer, Christy Miller, to receive the Proclamation. Ms. Miller extended her appreciation and thanked Mayor Aubuchon and Florence City Council for their recognition of the entire nursing community.

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

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-22-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn.

Councilmember Chambers stated she had received feedback from community members regarding the ordinance and the next agenda item. Councilmember Chambers had questions of Administration Director/City Administrator, Joshua Hunt, with regard to where the funds were coming from, the expected return on investment, and what steps had brought him to the conclusion that the grant was a necessary process for the city. Mr. Hunt explained the program had been discussed amongst councilmembers many times including the budget workshop. He explained many of the incentives currently adopted are payroll related. This incentive would be the first incentive passed by city council which is not payroll related. He believes the incentive associated with the legislation adheres to councils desires for the east side of town.

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

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-23-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Wingo.

Councilmember Chambers reiterated her questions from the previous agenda item to Mr. Hunt. Mr. Hunt explained the incentive was to remove blighted properties specifically on the east side. However, the incentive would be applied to all of Florence and could possibly be used as a site selection resource when recruiting businesses to Florence.

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

SECOND 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 second reading of Ordinance O-24-2023. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne.

Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized five yes votes approving the second reading of Ordinance O-24-2023 by unanimous vote.**

MAYOR’S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon expressed her appreciation for all that came out to support National Night Out.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the second free summer concert at the Florence Mall, Lower level parking area by Macy’s Home Store was on Friday. 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 to attend and bring a lawn chair.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the last summer concert series would be held on Saturday, September 2. The event will feature a car show beginning at 11:00 a.m. and live music by the Florence Community Band and The Grateful Dads beginning at 4:00 p.m.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

None desired recognition.

Department Heads:

Fire/EMS Assistant Chief, Chris Miller:
Assistant Chief Miller did not desire recognition.

Public Services Director, Eric Hall:
Mr. Hall did not desire recognition.

Police Lieutenant, Nathan Rettig:
Lieutenant Rettig did not desire recognition.

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

Members of the Audience:

None desired recognition.

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 Winn. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

