



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard, Florence, Kentucky, with Vice-Mayor Jenna Kemper presiding as chair.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:

Vice-Mayor Jenna Kemper called the regular meeting to order and declared the regular session open for the presentation of all city business.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Mayor Kemper 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 Assistant Chief, Chris Miller; Police Chief, 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 Lieutenant, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present in the audience: Florence Police Department new police officer, Cobi Allgeier; Family and Friends of the new Florence Police Department Employee, Cobi Allgeier; Member of Friends of the Shelter, Bonnie Ravenscraft; Member of Friends of the Shelter, Cheryl Paynter; Member of Friends of the Shelter, Janet Chapman; Member of Friends of the Shelter, Kathie Krueger; Resident of Florence, Angela Cable; Resident of Florence, Naomi Liebson; Resident of Florence, Thomas Judd; Resident of Florence, Sara Austin; and Northern Kentucky Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Mayor Kemper called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Carroll motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

OATH OF OFFICE:

Vice-Mayor Kemper called upon Chief Grau to introduce the newest member of the Florence Police Department, Cobi Allgeier.

Chief Grau stated Cobi was twenty-one years old and currently resided in Burlington, Kentucky. Cobi was a 2020 graduate of Cooper High School where he also played baseball. After graduating high school, Cobi worked for UPS and Amazon. Prior to his hire, Cobi was employed at the Boone County Jail. Chief Grau expressed his excitement to be adding Cobi to the Florence Police Department and stated Cobi leave for the academy on Sunday, September 3.

City Clerk Melissa Kramer administered the oath of office and welcomed Cobi to the City of Florence.

Vice-Mayor Kemper congratulated Cobi and welcomed him to the City of Florence.

PROCLAMATION:

Vice-Mayor Kemper recognized members of the Friends of the Shelter Organization and congratulated them on their thirty-third anniversary. Vice-Mayor Kemper read the following Proclamation into record:

WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure and honor that we recognize the extraordinary efforts and dedication of the “Friends of the Shelter” volunteer group for their thirty-three years of unwavering service to animal welfare in our community; and

WHEREAS, the “Friends of the Shelter” have been at the forefront of championing the rights and well-being of our beloved animal companions, tirelessly working towards the goals of helping to eliminate euthanasia and overcrowding in shelters through various programs; and

WHEREAS, their selfless commitment to rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming countless animals has significantly reduced the number of stray and abandoned animals in our community and through their efforts many animals have found loving forever homes; and

WHEREAS, the “Friends of the Shelter” has not only benefited our animal friends in Florence and Boone County, but the organization has contributed to the overall well-being of our community, promoting empathy, compassion and the value of volunteerism among our citizens; and

WHEREAS, their collaboration has expanded beyond our community and the Boone County Animal Shelter to include their aid to Kenton, Campbell, Grant, Pendleton and Gallatin County Animal Shelters in their mission to protect and care for animals in need; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, many changes have taken place but the “Friends of the Shelter” have remained steadfast with their love of animals never losing sight of their vision for a more compassionate world; and

WHEREAS, it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our esteem and best wishes to the “Friends of the Shelter” on this memorable occasion of their 33rd Anniversary and recognize the benefits of pets, whom make life better by giving us unconditional love, providing companionship and comfort.

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 express gratitude to the Friends of the Shelter and proclaim August 22, 2023 as Friends of the Shelter Day in Florence, Kentucky, for their ongoing efforts to strengthen and enhance our community and urge all citizens of Florence to join together in recognition and appreciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Florence, Kentucky, to be affixed hereto, this 22nd day of August, 2023.

Vice-Mayor Kemper called upon Bonnie Ravenscraft, President of the Friends of the Shelter to receive the Proclamation. Ms. Ravenscraft extended her appreciation and thanked Vice-Mayor Kemper and Florence City Council for their recognition.

DISCUSSION OF PROPERTY TAX RATE:

Vice-Mayor Kemper called upon Linda Chapman, CFO/HR, to present the property tax rate for the upcoming year.

Linda Chapman, CFO/HR, advised she had completed the calculations for the 2023 property tax rates. Per those calculations, the maximum allowable for real property was \$1.81 per \$1,000 assessment, \$2.00 per \$1,000 assessment for tangible personal property and \$1.52 per \$1,000 assessment for the special assessment for hazardous employee’s retirement. Ms. Chapman recommended keeping the rates the same and opened the floor for questions.

Councilmember Carroll stated the city was fortunate to have the opportunity to keep the tax rates the same and informed everyone the city had not raised taxes in over a decade.

Vice-Mayor Kemper advised a Public Hearing for the tax rate would be held on Tuesday, September 5 at 4:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - ORDINANCE O-25-2023:

Vice-Mayor Kemper called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Director of Administration/City Administrator, with regard to discussion and possible action with regard to Ordinance O-25-2023.

Mr. Hunt referenced his PowerPoint presentation and identified the proposed project located at 7864 Commerce Place, the former Fundome Skating Park. Mr. Hunt advised the location was now home to Tom Gill Auto Body Shop. As a result of concerns presented to the city by residents regarding the screening surrounding the business, the city requested the area to be screened. Mr. Gill agreed to install screening. However, current zoning regulations do not permit screening on the side of the building and a change in concept development plan was required. Mr. Hunt identified the area and explained the screening which would be installed. Mr. Hunt advised the

Florence Planning & Zoning Committee met and recommended one additional condition. The applicant agreed to the condition and there was no need for any additional Public Hearing.

Vice-Mayor Kemper opened the floor for questions.

Councilmember Carroll requested clarification that Tom Gill was only requesting to build a fence. Mr. Hunt replied affirmatively.

Vice-Mayor Kemper read Ordinance O-25-2023. An Ordinance Adopting and Approving a change of Concept Development Plan in a Commercial Services/Planned Development/Parkway Corridor Study (C-3/PD/PO) District for an approximate 2.65 acre site located at 7864 Commerce Place, Florence, Kentucky, to allow the expansion of an existing auto body repair facility outdoor vehicle storage area. (Tom Gill)

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow the expansion of an existing auto body repair facility outdoor vehicle storage area on an approximate 2.65 acre site in a Commercial Services/Planned Development/Parkway Corridor Study (C-3/PD/PO) District.

The full text of Ordinance O-25-2023 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.

Vice-Mayor Kemper called for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-25-2023. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. Vice-Mayor Kemper 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 first reading of Ordinance O-25-2023 by unanimous vote.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE O-26-2023:

Vice-Mayor Kemper called upon Joshua J. Hunt, Director of Administration/City Administrator, with regard to discussion of Ordinance O-26-2023. Mr. Hunt advised the applicant Taco John's submitted a letter this morning to the City of Florence formally withdrawing the project. They did not give a reason why. Mr. Hunt stated this is the second time this has happened, the first time was from the site on Mall Road, the former Beechmont Optical. Therefore, the proposed project is null and void. Mr. Hunt advised they would have to initiate the process again should they desire to proceed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Vice-Mayor Kemper informed everyone there would be no council meeting Tuesday, August 29, it is a 5th Tuesday.
- Vice-Mayor Kemper reminded everyone the last summer concert series would be held on Saturday, September 2. She stated there would be an exciting lineup of events planned

including a car show, music, food trucks and activities for kids. The event will be held at the Florence Mall, lower level parking lot by Macy's. The car show kicks off the event at 11:00 a.m. Registration for the car show begins at 10:00 a.m. DJ TeddyGi will provide music throughout the day. Live music by the Florence Community Band begins at 4:00 p.m. and The Grateful Dads will take the stage at 7:00 p.m. Vice-Mayor Kemper stated for more information regarding the event, please contact Victoria Riley, Community Services Coordinator at 859-647-5425.

- Vice-Mayor Kemper announced city offices would be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day.
- Vice-Mayor Kemper announced the city's Arbor Day Celebration would be held on Saturday, September 16 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held at the Florence Nature Park, 7200 Nature Park Drive, Florence. Vice-Mayor Kemper stated for more information to contact the Public Services Department at 859-647-5416.

RECOGNITION:

Vice-Mayor Kemper asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Chambers reminded everyone that the Florence Aquatic Center was open weekends through Labor Day.

Councilmember Wingo informed everyone that the Boone County Planning Commission will hold several public input meetings regarding the Boone County Comprehensive Plan Update. There will be one held on September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Government Center.

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 Chief, 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:

None desired recognition.

CLOSED SESSION:

There was no need for Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice-Mayor Kemper called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Carroll so moved, with a second from Councilmember Winn. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

