



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 26, 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. Councilmembers Mel Carroll was absent.

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 Lieutenant, Jeff Mallery.

The following were also present in the audience: Ryan Fox, Florence Police Department new police officer; Brandon Brockman, Florence Police Department new police officer; Joseph Smallwood, Florence Police Department new police officer; Family and Friends of the new Florence Police Department employees; Florence Fire/EMS Department new employee, Firefighter/EMT, Josh Abdon; Florence Fire/EMS Department new employee, Firefighter/EMT, Colleen Kim; Florence Fire/EMS Department new employee, Firefighter/Paramedic, Nathan Belden; Florence Fire/EMS Department new employee, Firefighter/Paramedic, Patrick Whalen; Family and Friends of the new Florence Fire/EMS Department employees; Assistant Fire/EMS Chief, John Black; Battalion Chief of Training, Matt Pleiman; Resident of Florence, Brad Cable; Resident of Florence, Angela Cable; Resident of Florence, Stacey Arnett; 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 September 12, 2023, business meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Kemper. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Chief Grau introduced the newest members of the Florence Police Department, Ryan Fox, Brandon Brockman and Joseph Smallwood. Chief Grau stated they are excited to be adding the three recruits to the department and they will leave for the academy on Sunday, October 8. Mayor Aubuchon administered the oaths of office and Chief Grau presented them with their badges.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Rodney Wren, Fire/EMS Chief, introduced the newest members of the Florence Fire/EMS Department including Firefighter/EMT Josh Abdon, Firefighter/EMT Collen Kim, Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Beldon and Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Whalen. Mayor Aubuchon administered the oaths of office and Fire/EMS Chief Wren presented the new members of the Florence Fire/EMS Department with their badges.

SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-27-2023:

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-27-2023. An Ordinance Relating To The Levying Of A Tax Upon Real Estate And Personal Property In The City Of Florence, Kentucky; Levying A Tax On All Franchises Taxable Within The City Of Florence, Kentucky; Specifying Payment Dates, Discounts And Penalties For The Franchise Tax On Financial Institutions Measured By The Deposits In The Institutions Located Within The City; And Levying A Special Tax For The Payment Of Current Service Costs For Police And Firemen In The County Employees Retirement System. (2023)

This is the Ordinance by which the City establishes tax rates and levies annual taxes. The basic tax levied for General Fund purposes is a tax of eighteen and one-tenths cents (\$.181) per one hundred dollars of value on real property and a tax of twenty cents (\$.200) per one hundred dollars of value on personal property (except for motor vehicles and watercraft) and upon all franchises taxable by the City.

In addition this Ordinance levies a tax in the amount of six and five-tenths cents (\$.065) per one hundred dollars of value upon all real and personal property (except for motor vehicles and watercraft) and upon all franchises taxable by the City for the purpose of payment of the City's obligations for current service costs for police and firemen in the County employees' retirement system.

All of the above mentioned taxes are due and payable upon final passage and publication of this Ordinance. A discount of two percent (2%) is allowed for any such taxes paid in full by November 1, 2023. Any such taxes remaining unpaid after January 1, 2024, are subject to a penalty of twelve

percent (12%) plus interest on the amount unpaid at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from January 1, 2024, until paid.

This Ordinance also establishes a franchise tax in the amount of twenty-five thousandths of one percent (0.025%) on all financial institutions measured by deposits in such institutions located in the City. This tax was levied by Ordinance No. O-18-96, pursuant to the Bank Franchise and Local Deposit Tax Act. (KRS 136.575) A two percent (2%) discount is allowed against this tax on bank deposits if paid before December 31, 2023. Any such taxes paid after January 31, 2024, will be subject to a penalty of twelve percent (12%) plus interest in the unpaid amount at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from January 31, 2024, until paid. The Ordinance establishes corresponding due dates, discounts and penalties for subsequent years.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance O-27-2023. Councilmember Osborne motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Winn. 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-27-2023 by unanimous vote.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon announced the Fall Clean Up Program was scheduled to begin Monday, October 9 through Sunday, October 15. Drop off is at Public Services Maintenance Facility located at 7850 Tanners Lane. The clean-up is available for Florence residents only and you must show proof of residency. Contact the City of Florence Public Services Department at (859)647-5416 for more information.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone the YMCA was hosting a Senior Fall Festival on Friday, October 20 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Thomas More Stadium, Home of the Florence Y'all. All seniors are invited to attend the free fun fall event. Over forty community partners offering valuable senior resources, health screening, flu shots and many giveaways.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the city will host the annual Halloween Night Out on Tuesday, October 24 at Thomas More Stadium, Home of the Florence Y'all from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The event will have vendors and treats for kids. The "Nightmare at the Ballpark" will be a spooktacular family friendly event. Contact the Administration Department, Victoria Riley, if you would like to become a vendor or obtain more information at (859)647-8177.

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:
None desired recognition.

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 Winn so moved, with a second from Councilmember Kemper. **All councilmembers present voted aye, the time being 6:44 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 6:45 p.m.**

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

