



**Florence City Council  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, June 11, 2024  
6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 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, David A. Osborne, Pat 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, Jeff Mallery; Public Services Director, Eric Hall; City Engineer, Bill Viox; City Clerk, Melissa Kramer; Videographer, Joel Clines; and Police Corporal Ben Kolkmeier.

The following were also present in the audience: Assistant City Clerk, Brandi Roundtree; Assistant Fire/EMS Chief, Chris Miller; City of Florence Resident, Angie Cable; City of Florence Resident, Tom Judd; NKY Tribune Reporter, Trisha Scheyer; City of Florence Resident, Margaret Lee; City of Florence Resident, Micah Clae; and Resident of Florence, Jacob Ellis.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, business meeting. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Councilmember Winn. **All councilmembers present voted aye.**

**SECOND READING ORDINANCE O-10-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-10-2024. An ordinance adopting and approving a change of concept development plan in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor (C-2/PD/HDO) District for an approximate 10.3-acre site located at 4999 Houston Road, Florence, Kentucky, to allow a portion of the existing building to be used for office, retail, recreation, or warehousing and distribution uses.

The effect of this Ordinance is to allow a portion of the existing building to be used for office, retail, recreation, or warehousing and distribution uses on an approximate 10.3-acre site in a Commercial Two/Planned Development/Houston-Donaldson Study Corridor (C-2/PD/HDO) District.

The full text of Ordinance O-10-2024, 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-10-2024. Councilmember Carroll 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 Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized six yes votes approving the second reading of Ordinance O-10-2024 by unanimous vote.**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-11-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-11-2024. An ordinance of the City of Florence, Kentucky, amending the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year of the city.

The purposes of this amendment are: (a) to reflect an increase in General Fund – Capital Outlay for the Pee Wee Athletic field upgrades; and (b) to reflect increases in Golf Course Fund – Revenues/Expenses based on year-to-date actual results.

The full text of Ordinance O-11-2024, 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-11-2024. Councilmember Wingo 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 second reading of Ordinance O-11-2024 by unanimous vote.**

**MAYOR’S ANNUAL BUDGET ADDRESS AND STATE OF THE CITY:**

Mayor Aubuchon presented the Annual Budget Address and State of the City:

*As we gather here this evening for the annual State of the City and Budget Address, I come before you, not just as the Mayor of Florence, but as a fellow citizen who shares your dreams and aspirations for our beloved city.*

*In my second year of service as your Mayor, I am proud to say that our city is not just surviving but thriving. We are moving forward, driven by the shared vision of this council, Mel Carroll, Lesley Chambers, Jenna Kemper, David A. Osborne, Patricia Wingo and Gary Winn, of making Florence a safe, community-driven city that is fiscally responsible.*

*Our mission, to provide the highest quality of life for the people in our community in innovative ways, is not just a statement on paper. It is a commitment that guides every decision we make. It is a promise that we pursue each day by being the best in all we do.*

*We are building upon a city that is not just a place to live, but a place to flourish. A city that is not just safe but inviting. A city that is not just economically responsible, but also innovative and forward-thinking.*

*Therefore, I am delighted to share with you our State of the City and Budget Address for the fiscal year 2024-2025. The budget for the upcoming year represents a comprehensive spending for all city funds. It takes into account all anticipated and projected cost increases, as well as forecasts for our diverse revenue streams. This budget is a testament to our commitment to remain economically prudent and strategically plan for the future of Florence.*

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*The general fund budget proposal for 2024-2025 projects revenues of \$50.4 million. The projected expenditures are estimated at \$48.1 million which includes operating and capital expenditures including transfers to other city funds. The City of Florence's operating costs are \$38.0 million, which is an overall 5% increase over those budgeted for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. This is mainly due to a rise in operating expenses over the prior year and an annual State pension decrease of 12% per year. The City of Florence has planned expenditures for capital items of \$10.1 million, which is a 68.73% decrease from last year.*

*The Administration and Finance Departments overall budget is \$4,533,500.*

*I would first like to recognize the outstanding work of our Finance Department. Under the capable leadership of our Chief Financial Officer/Human Resources Director, Linda Chapman, this team has been the backbone of our city's financial stability. Their diligent efforts have ensured that we remain economically prudent, laying a sustainable financial foundation for our city. Our Finance Department, comprised of six staff members, is responsible for the collection of all revenues for the city, disbursing all payments, administering the employee benefits program, and coordinating the city's information technology vendor relationship.*

*Within the past year, the Finance Department has successfully implemented an upgrade to Springbrook Software, ensuring our finance resource management remains state of the art. This dedicated team has interacted with over 11,000 citizens, providing outstanding customer service. Their skillful handling of inquiries and concerns demonstrates their exceptional communication and problem-solving abilities.*

*For the past twenty years, our Chief Financial Officer and Finance Department have been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting through the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. This is the highest recognition award for a municipality's financial reporting. Furthermore, the city received its ninth consecutive "Distinguished Budget Presentation" award, showcasing a consistent commitment to precision and financial transparency. Lastly, our yearly audit, conducted by Chamberlin Owen Certified Public Accountants, was conducted without any discrepancies. A further testament to the department's commitment to transparency and accountability.*

*As we look to the future, I must also acknowledge an upcoming change. Our esteemed Chief Financial Officer/Human Resources Director, Linda Chapman, will be retiring in August. Linda's years of service to our city have been marked by dedication and exceptional expertise. While we will greatly miss her presence, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.*

*On behalf of city council and myself, I extend my thanks to you, Linda, and the entire Finance Department, for your commitment to our city. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for your service. Your fiscal responsibility ensures that our city will continue to lead the region in economic growth and advancement.*

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*The next department I would like to recognize is the Administration Department, led by Director of Administration/City Administrator, Joshua Hunt. Josh and his team of nine dedicated employees have worked tirelessly to execute the city's responsibilities and ensure the advancement of our city.*

*The Administration Department has undergone personnel changes over the past year, a testament to our ongoing commitment to progress and advancement. The creation of the Human Services Administrator, along with the restructuring and modernization of several positions, including the Director of Business Development and Director of Community Development, signifies a significant leap in our dedication to propel the city forward. These changes not only reflect the adaptability of the department, but also their resolve to meet the evolving needs of the city.*

*The Administration Department is home to the City Clerk/Public Relations Administrator and her dedicated team. They are the custodians of city records, ensuring transparency by managing legislative agendas, and promoting the city through press releases and social media postings. Their efforts are crucial in maintaining open communication between the city government and its residents. This past year, they took a significant step forward by creating the Community Guide, which was delivered to every resident and the department's launch of our city's YouTube Channel, featuring live-streamed council meetings. These initiatives have greatly enhanced our city's transparency and accessibility. Their dedication ensures the smooth operation of our city government by providing administrative support to our Director of Administration/City Administrator, councilmembers and myself.*

*Our recently appointed Risk Manager plays a crucial role in overseeing all insurance claims and workers' compensation matters. He also serves as the primary liaison with the Kentucky League of Cities for related activities, ensuring our city's interests are well represented.*

*The Administration Department is also home to the Human Services Administrator. The Human Services Administrator reflects our unwavering commitment to addressing the needs of our community. Her role is pivotal in ensuring that the voices of our residents are heard, and their needs are met.*

*Lastly, our events team, under the expert leadership of the Community Services Coordinator and the Community Services Administrator, have shown extraordinary dedication in planning and executing city events, as well as ensuring our rental facilities are available for residents and visitors seamlessly. Their tireless efforts have resulted in a variety of events and community gatherings, offering our residents a wealth of opportunities for engagement and personal growth creating a strong sense of community within our city. Their work truly brings our city to life.*

*Over the past year they have introduced a host of new events including the Summer Concert Series, Car Show, St. Patrick's Scavenger Hunt and Book & Literacy Festival, while also successfully continuing our beloved Halloween Night Out, Christmas Tree Lighting. Their commitment and dedication have been evident in the flawless execution of each event. Their work is a testament to their passion for our community and their commitment to excellence.*

*The Administration Department also serves as the epicenter of our economic growth, spearheading initiatives to propel Florence forward. During the past year, the department attracted \$400 million in new capital investments, oversaw the completion of \$47 million in new capital investments, and managed an additional \$263 million under*

*construction. We have \$860 million in capital investments in the pipeline, all aimed at sustaining the economic growth and prosperity of the City of Florence. The city has experienced a surge in new hotel developments, with eight hotels constructed in the past five years alone. These additions have introduced hundreds of new rooms to our cityscape and spurred millions in new capital investment. Looking ahead, the landscape will continue to evolve with the commencement of the Residence Inn on Meijer Drive and the completion of the Drury Inn at the intersection of Industrial Road and US 42.*

*In addition to these projects, notable developments on the horizon include the arrival of Roy Rogers on the corner of US 42 and Industrial Road, Wing Stop and Florence Modern Dentistry on Mall Road, Arhaus Loft and the Good Feet Store in Houston Road area. Despite challenges such as rising interest rates and construction material shortages, our economic development team receives daily inquiries about new potential ventures. This demonstrates the resilience and attractiveness of our region, affirming that Northern Kentucky is not only an exceptional place to reside and conduct business but also a prime destination for visitors.*

*With approximately 2000 businesses operating within our city limits, Florence stands as the nucleus of retail and commerce in Northern Kentucky. Within the Administration team, several core duties and key personnel merit recognition for their pivotal roles in ensuring effective governance and community engagement.*

*The Administration Department continues to strive for excellence in serving our community. Their pursuit of excellence in service to our community is commendable. They are the driving force behind our ongoing efforts to stimulate economic growth, uphold transparency and accountability and improve the quality of life for all our residents.*

*On behalf of city council and myself, I thank Mr. Hunt and the members of the Administration Department for their commitment and dedication to the city.*

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*The next department I would like to address is our Florence Police Department, led by Chief of Police, Jeff Mallery. The total department budget is \$12,722,600.*

*The Florence Police Department takes immense pride in safeguarding our residents, businesses and visitors to Florence. His dedicated team of officers and staff work tirelessly, merging effective patrolling and investigative techniques with building relationships within the community and businesses. Their collective efforts aim to maintain the safety and welcoming environment of Florence.*

*The Florence Police Department, a dedicated team of 73 sworn officers, is structured into specialized units such as patrol, detective, drug investigations, and community resources. Over the past year, the department welcomed new members including Cobi Allgeier, Joseph Smallwood, Ryan Fox, Brandon Brockman, Logan Delauder, Justin Tucker, Keith Wagner, and Hanna Boyd-Hughes.*

*Additionally, as the department celebrated these new additions, the department bid farewell to six of their esteemed colleagues who retired during the fiscal year. Among them was Chief of Police, Tom Grau, along with Corporal Adam DeSalvo, Officer Sean McKibbin, Officer Kevin Duncan, Officer Ki Ransdell, and Officer Kyle Sorensen. The entire city is grateful to these officers for their unwavering dedication and years of service to the City of Florence and our community.*

*In April, the Florence Police Department ushered in a new era with the appointment of our new Chief of Police, Jeff Mallery. His leadership, coupled with the recent promotion of Lieutenant Jason Reed, promises exciting times ahead for the department. We look forward to continuing the commitment to serve and protect our community.*

*During the last year, the Florence Police Department responded to 55,133 services calls, an increase since the previous year. Those calls led to a substantial 77,051 car responses, reflecting their commitment to the safety of our community. Overall, the department's traffic-related incidents, including accidents, motorist assists, and traffic*

*enforcement, made up 23% of the department's activities, marking a slight 4% decrease from the previous year. General requests, encompassing alarm drops and information requests, constituted 47% of the activities. Criminal calls represented 19%, while administrative calls made up the remaining 11%.*

*Over the fiscal year, the department conducted a total of 5,458 traffic stops. The primary focus of traffic enforcement was on speeding, with 338 stops, and seatbelt violations, with 243 stops. Traffic accident calls saw a marginal decrease of 1%, totaling 3,003. In the general response category, several areas witnessed an increase. Trespassing calls rose by 73%, from 95 the previous year to 164 this year. Harassment calls saw a 50% increase, from 170 to 255. Juvenile-related calls increased by 42%, from 169 to 240. Shoplifting calls also saw a rise of 32%, from 684 to 906. Conversely, some areas saw a decrease in the general response category. Calls regarding loiterers fell by 19%. Overdose calls decreased by 16%, from 185 to 155. Calls related to fights fell by 12%, from 314 to 275. Lastly, alarm drops saw a 6% decrease, from 2030 to 1910.*

*Over the past year, the Florence Police Department maintained their commitment to excellence, achieving and sustaining state accreditation since 1986 showcasing continuous dedication to high standards, professionalism, and practices in law enforcement. The community resource officers continue to demonstrate a commitment to Community Outreach Programs successfully leading impactful community outreach programs administering the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program to over 800 youth in the community. Through enhanced training and safety programs, the department received the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) Safety Awareness Award recognizing their exceptional commitment to creating a secure and safe environment for the community.*

*The City of Florence holds a commitment to recruiting and training the finest police officers. We deeply appreciate the community's support for our officers and take immense pride in the positive influence they exert on our community. Their dedication and service are an integral part of the safety of our community.*

*On behalf of city council and myself, I express my appreciation to all the members of the Florence Police Department. Your commitment to safety and the well-being of our city is truly commendable. Each day, you put on your uniforms and badges, not knowing what challenges may come your way. Yet, you face them head-on with determination and a deep sense of duty. You are the guardians of the community and for that, I, and the entire city, are eternally grateful. Thank you for your service, your sacrifice and keeping Florence safe.*

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*Next, our Florence Fire/EMS Department, led by Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren, is comprised of 72 career personnel, 2 full-time civilian administrative support and one part-time inspector. The total department budget is \$13,226,709.*

*Over the past year, the Florence Fire/EMS Department welcomed new members to their team, including Firefighter/Paramedics Josh Abdon and Nathan Belden, Firefighter/EMTs Collen Kim, Brady Murray, Ethan Morris, Josh Hobbs, and Sam Reynolds, Paramedics Ally Ratliff and Andrew Robbins, and Battalion Chief Danielle Stiner. Their addition has brought fresh perspectives and reinforced the department's commitment to service. Additionally, the department bid farewell to some of its seasoned members including Captain/EMTs Dave Piening and Wes Burns, and Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Weghorn retired. The entire city is grateful for their contributions and wish them well in their retirement.*

*In the midst of these changes, the department celebrated the promotions of several team members including Assistant Chief Ryan Born, Battalion Chief Joey Marcum, Captains Shawn Ross, Matt Hawkins, and Jon McNamara, and Lieutenants Dan Cox, Wally LeMaster, and Jimmy Rose. Their promotions not only signify personal achievement but also mark a new chapter in the department's journey towards excellence.*

*Over this past year, the department responded to over 10,700 incidents, which included more than 8,900 medical emergencies and 1,700 fire and incident responses. The department also is deeply committed to professional development, completing an impressive 7,803 hours of training. This included specialized courses such as TEEEX: Management 314: Enhanced All-Hazards Incident Management/Unified Command at Texas A&M National Response*

*and Recover Training Center, attended by Chief Rodney Wren, Assistant Chiefs John Black, Chris Miller, and Ryan Born, Battalion Chief Randy Childress, and Captain Curtis. Additionally, personnel underwent Fire Officer I training, including Battalion Chief Matt Pleiman, Lieutenant Dan Cox, and Lieutenant Jimmy Rose. The commitment to continuous learning and improvement was further demonstrated by Chief Rodney Wren, Firefighter/Paramedic Tim Mitchell, and Firefighter/EMT Nate Anderson earning their Fire Investigation Technician certifications. Lieutenant Brent Wuest completed the Command and Control of Incident Operations course, while Battalion Chief Matt Pleiman, Assistant Chief Ryan Born, and Captain Jon McNamara became certified Basic Emergency Rescue Technicians. Captain Dave Curtis furthered his leadership skills by completing the National Fire Academy Managing Fire Officer Program.*

*The Florence Fire/EMS Department's presence was also felt at the Kentucky Association of Fire Chief Conference, attended by Chief Wren and Assistant Chief Black. Additionally, personnel participated as responders and drill evaluators in the Full-Scale Airport Disaster Drill, showcasing our readiness to handle large-scale emergencies.*

*The past year, the Florence Fire/EMS department has been a beacon of dedication and excellence. They celebrated the 25-year service anniversary of Assistant Chief Black and Captain Tim Webster, a testament to their commitment to the residents and community of Florence. Team members, including Lieutenant Rick Puryear, Medic Danielle Eilerman, Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Dietz, Lieutenant/EMT Jimmy Rose, Firefighter/Paramedic Zach Green, and Firefighter/EMT Josh Tucker, were honored with the Target Stroke Brain Pin, recognizing their exceptional service in emergency medical care. Furthermore, Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Marlow was awarded the Gateway Paramedic Program Preceptor of the Year, and he also successfully completed the Paramedic to Registered Nurse Program, further enhancing the department's medical expertise.*

*Most notably, the Florence Fire/EMS department was recognized with the prestigious Mission Lifeline EMS Silver Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll. This honor is bestowed by the American Heart Association for implementing a higher standard of care, ensuring STEMI patients receive treatment according to evidence-based guidelines, recommendations, and standards. This recognition underscores our unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our community.*

*The Florence Fire/EMS Department is deeply rooted in our community, participating in over 80 events including the Tunnel to Towers 5K, Tunnel to Towers Traveling Museum, city events, Coat Drive, Hands and Voices Lunch with the Firefighters, and Fire Prevention Month. These engagements are a testament to our commitment to community involvement and public safety.*

*Looking ahead, the department and entire city is excited about the completion of Station #34, a significant milestone that will bring about operational changes, reshaping response areas and the deployment of apparatus and personnel for service calls.*

*In August 2024, the city will bid farewell to Assistant Chief Black, whose retirement will usher in a new era for the department as we welcome Assistant Chief Born, whose fresh ideas and direction will invigorate the daily operations. With Battalion Chief Stiner joining the department, the department plans to revamp the EMS program in 2024-2025, introducing more immersive and hands-on training.*

*In December, the department will take delivery of a replacement E-One Aerial, superseding the 2005 E-One Aerial currently in service. This state-of-the-art apparatus, equipped with the latest safety features recommended by industry standards, will ensure the safety of our members during elevated operations.*

*Their training division is dedicated to expanding Hazardous Material training to better serve businesses and residents and continue Officer Development training to cultivate better leaders within the department through training and experience. Additionally, live fire training will be a constant throughout the year, instilling fundamental skills in new members.*

*Lastly, the fire investigation/inspection division, which includes a Fire Marshal and certified fire investigators, will continue their operations. With the support of a part-time inspector, they will maintain fire inspections throughout the city to minimize fire loss.*

*On behalf of city council and myself, I express my deepest gratitude to Chief Wren and all the dedicated individuals who make up the Florence Fire/EMS Department. Your dedication, commitment to excellence and courage are truly appreciated. Your selfless acts of bravery do not go unnoticed, and you are always ready to respond at moment's notice, no matter the hour or the circumstance. The training and preparation you undergo to serve our community in the quality of care and assistance you provide. Your daily actions save lives, protect property and make Florence a safer place to live. On behalf of the entire city, I extend my thanks to each one of you.*

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*Finally, yet importantly, the Florence Public Services Department, led by Public Services Director, Eric Hall, is the heartbeat of Florence with a dedicated team committed to ensuring the wellbeing and functionality of our city. With 67 skilled professionals and a budget of \$6,879,000, the department works tirelessly to create a seamless experience for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.*

*The departments nine critical divisions have worked tirelessly to improve and maintain the quality of life in Florence. The Transportation Division has made significant strides, replacing approximately two (2) miles of street. The Water Division has been diligent in maintaining our water infrastructure, repairing forty (40) main breaks and ninety-seven (97) service leaks. The Sewer Division has been equally active, repairing 32 stoppages and televising over 133,470 linear feet of main. Our Grounds Division has put in over 3,500 hours of mowing and installed 365 tons of mulch throughout the city, enhancing the beauty of our public spaces. The Building Division has been busy with 313 repairs across our 26 facilities, ensuring that our buildings are safe and functional. Our Fleet Division has completed 1,480 vehicle/equipment work orders, keeping our city's vehicles and equipment in top condition. The Code Enforcement has worked diligently on over 4,000 cases of noncompliance throughout the city, ensuring adherence to our city's codes and regulations. Lastly, our Infrastructure Support Services Division has managed, inspected, and ensured compliance for 64 capital improvement projects, contributing to the city's growth and development. These accomplishments reflect our commitment to serving our residents and improving our city.*

*This past year, the department welcomed several new team members this year including Jeremiah Rice, Dylan Droz, Randy Corpus, Jaden Hunt and Austin Jackson. Additionally, the Public Services Department updated the water regulations and the pavement standards in the Boone County Subdivision Regulations, ensuring that our infrastructure meets the highest standards. Their team also oversaw the design, construction management and implementation of the New Florence Y'alls Clubhouse, renovations and improvements to the Council Chambers, and were instrumental in implementing the creation of the Veterans Commission.*

*Their efforts extended to improving our city's parks, redesigning and replacing the pavers at South Fourth Park and introduced a new "hot box" piece of equipment that allows their team to make asphalt repairs during the winter months, ensuring our roads are safe and well-maintained year-round.*

*In the Rosetta Water Building, the department designed and installed an interactive hands-on display that will allow the department to better educate and train our utility operators in a controlled environment. Lastly, the department upgraded our water testing equipment to ensure the delivery of safe and clean water to our residents.*

*All of these accomplishments reflect the department's ongoing commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our residents and visitors.*

*In the upcoming year, the Public Services Department is gearing up for a transformative year ahead, with projects designed to improve the lives of our residents. One of the standout initiatives is the inaugural Public Works Academy, slated to commence on June 10 and run through July 26. This innovative program will select candidates through a rigorous interview process, providing them with comprehensive training across all facets of the Public Services Department while equipping them with valuable certifications. This initiative aims to build a skilled workforce and promote a deeper sense of community engagement and investment.*



*The Public Services Department remains dedicated in its commitment to the city's recreational spaces, with ongoing master planning efforts for the six active parks. By establishing a forward-looking vision, these endeavors seek to ensure that these vital community hubs continue to meet the evolving needs and preferences of residents and visitors for years to come.*

*Additionally, the commencement of master planning for the Florence Aquatic Center in this year's budget underscores the department's dedication to public participation and feedback, ensuring that the facility reflects the desires and priorities of the community it serves. Furthermore, prior city council's and the current city council's decision to maintain the pool, open the pool, extend the season, and enhance the facility with the master plan demonstrates their commitment to these improvements and quality of life for our residents.*

*Alongside these endeavors, the completion of numerous infrastructure projects, including the construction of a new fire station, road improvements, and the installation of adaptive traffic signals, will further bolster the city's resilience and efficiency. With over 50 capital and in-house improvement projects slated for completion, the Public Services Department remains at the forefront of driving positive change and progress within the City of Florence.*

*Our Public Services Department, the quiet protectors of our city, often work behind the scenes, their achievements and endeavors largely unseen. Yet their ceaseless dedication is what keeps the city's heart beating, enabling businesses to open their doors and residents to go about their daily lives. They form the sturdy backbone that upholds our 24/7 city services, ensuring swift responses to the needs of our community.*

*In the depths of winter, their commitment shines with an intensity that rivals the brightest star, ensuring our city remains accessible. They keep our streets clear and safe, ensuring that, no matter what, our city's rhythm remains unbroken. Their dedication ensures that Florence never misses a beat, even in the harshest of winters.*

*My special appreciation to Eric Hall and his dedicated crew for their year-round efforts in maintaining the beauty and functionality of our city. On behalf of city council and myself, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to a group of individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make our city, Florence, the wonderful place that it is. Eric, your leadership and dedication are commendable and your teams' year-round efforts in maintaining the beauty and functionality of our city do not go unnoticed. To the entire Public Services Department, your efforts make Florence not just a place to live, but a wonderful community to be a part of. Thank you for your commitment to Florence.*

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*In our ongoing commitment to transparency and open communication, we have established multiple channels for our citizens to voice their questions and concerns. These include our official website, dedicated email addresses, a direct phone line, and a user-friendly Florence Y'all mobile app. Last fiscal year, the Florence City Council convened 33 times, demonstrating our commitment to active governance. However, these meetings are not the only platform for citizens to express their concerns. We meet twice as often as other legislative bodies to ensure that legislation and projects are passed efficiently. While the council may be visible primarily on Tuesdays, I assure you that our team is working diligently behind the scenes, available around the clock. Each city department handles inquiries promptly and addresses all concerns. Our building is open, and we have department heads and officials readily available to engage with residents. We are here for you, and we value your input as we work together to make Florence an even better place to live.*

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*Our city is not just about work, it is about recreation. Our parks, trails, and recreational facilities are not just amenities, but invitations for families, friends and visitors to connect, unwind, and recharge. We are committed to continually investing in these spaces, encouraging an environment where community events bring families and the community together and recreation is a way of life. Additionally, we have exciting art initiatives in the planning stages that will further enrich our community's cultural landscape and highlight our city's history and artistic talent. Our iconic water tower stands as a symbol of our city, enhancing the sense of place and complementing attractions like Turfway Park, World of Golf, Florence Nature Park, Florence Y'alls, and various shopping destinations. Our tourism sector is further bolstered by our hotels and dining options. For newcomers and residents alike, our Community Guide provides comprehensive information about city services, ensuring everyone feels at home in our city.*

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*As we close the State of the City and Budget Address, I want to acknowledge the energy and growth that defines Florence. Yes, we are a lively city with busy roads, traffic signals, storefronts, restaurants, and businesses. But this is not a sign of overgrowth; rather, it is a testament to our success and the dynamic spirit of our community.*

*While my journey as Mayor with Florence began recently, I am a lifelong resident and have served the city for over twenty-five years. I am deeply aware of our rich history and the legacy left by my predecessors. I am inspired by the love and dedication they had for this city.*

*Florence is more than just a place to reside, it is a home. Families raise their children here and memories are made. We cherish our safe neighborhoods and green spaces. We take pride in our local parks and amenities.*

*Our city excels because of its resilient workforce. Our businesses, both large and small, fuel our economy providing jobs and opportunities.*

*As we look to the future, let us remember that our strength lies in our community. Our progress is driven by our shared commitment to safety, fiscal responsibility, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.*

*With the continued support and commitment of our city elected officials, Mel Carroll, Lesley Chambers, Jenna Kemper, David A. Osborne, Patricia Wingo, and Gary Winn, our department heads, and staff members, I am excited about the future. I am confident that our community will continue to be successful because we have amazing people here who genuinely care about this community.*

*On behalf of the city and city council, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to those who serve the city, those who retired throughout the year, and those who have stepped up to fill positions. The success of Florence is a collective effort.*

*I offer my sincere thanks to each and every one of you who come to work every day to keep our city on track. Your dedication and commitment are the driving forces behind our city's success. I'm going to thank the residents for being engaged and for taking part in this community and creating the fabric of this wonderful community in which we live. The State of the City of Florence, Kentucky is strong. Thank you.*

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-12-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-12-2024. An ordinance of the City of Florence, Kentucky, adopting the official budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year of the city.

This Ordinance adopts the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget of the City, including the General Fund, the Municipal Aid Road Fund, the Infrastructure Fund, the Asset Forfeiture Fund, the Aquatic Center Fund, the Water & Sewer Fund, the World of Golf Fund, and the Health and Dental Fund. Budgeted resources and expenditures are as shown on Exhibit "A".

The full text of Ordinance O-12-2024, 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-12-2024. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve, with a second from Councilmember Osborne.

Councilmember Kemper expressed concerns regarding the \$1.1 million allocated from the General Fund for Veterans Memorial improvements. She sought clarification on the nature of the enhancements, funds expended for the enhancements and raised concerns regarding the proposed project.

Public Services Director Eric Hall explained that the current fountain pump requires replacement due to malfunction. Additionally, the pavers are deteriorating and the memorial itself is leaning. Mr. Hall stated that the proposed project would enhance the space for community events and programs.

Councilmember Chambers requested additional information regarding the Aquatic Center Master Plan and whether repairs would adhere to current requirements and regulations. Mr. Hall confirmed the repairs would meet regulation standards.

Councilmember Chambers asked whether redesign ideas were proposed after the survey was conducted. Mr. Hall clarified that no design concepts for water features were developed during the survey process.

Mayor Aubuchon stated the budget process began in March and the proposed budget was presented to Councilmembers on May 1.

Councilmember Carroll stated that the proposed budget was presented to councilmembers during the May 1 budget meeting. He explained that councilmembers had ample opportunity to express their concerns regarding specific line items at that time and the subsequent time since then and any further adjustments are no longer feasible as the budget comes to the floor during the first reading.

Councilmember Chambers inquired if certain line items of the budget could be voted on separately. Mayor Aubuchon stated the budget cannot be separated and a vote was required on the budget in its entirety.

No further discussion was necessitated and based on the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-12-2024 by Councilmember Wingo and seconded by Councilmember Osborne Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, no; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, yes; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized five yes votes and one opposed approving the first reading of Ordinance O-12-2024 with a 5-1 majority.**

#### **FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-13-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Ordinance O-13-2024. An ordinance relating to personnel: amending ordinance O-4-2024 and O-9-2024 relating to personnel policies, job descriptions, authorized positions, and pay plan.

The purpose of Ordinance O-13-2024 relating to Personnel Policies, Job Descriptions, Authorized Positions and the Pay Plan is to a) add three positions for Police Officer; b) add the position of AMI Coordinator; c) add six positions for Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic or Paramedic;

d) add three positions for Fire Lieutenant; e) add three positions for Fire Captain; f) eliminate one position for Director of Hospitality; g) change the position of Administrative Secretary I to Administrative Assistant; h) change the position of GIS Technician to GIS Administrator; i) change Project Administrator to Public Infrastructure Analyst; and j) create the position and job description for Police Property Clerk. In all other respects, the current Ordinance relating to Personnel Policies, Job Descriptions, Authorized Positions and Pay Plan shall remain the same.

The full text of Ordinance O-13-2024, 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-13-2024. Councilmember Kemper 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-13-2024 by unanimous vote.**

#### **MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-5-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-5-2024. A Municipal Order approving the reappointment of Rick Rowland to the City of Florence Code Enforcement Board for a three (3) year term.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-5-2024. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-5-2024 with a second from 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 Municipal Order MO-5-2024 by unanimous vote.**

#### **MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-6-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-6-2024. A Municipal Order approving the appointment of Tom Gagnon as the city's representative and Justin Finke as the city's alternate representative to the Intermodal Coordinating Committee of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-6-2024. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-6-2024 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 Municipal Order MO-6-2024 by unanimous vote.**

#### **MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-7-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-7-2024. A Municipal Order approving the reappointment of Lila Huff to the Florence Board of Adjustment and Zoning Appeals for a four (4) year term.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-7-2024. Councilmember Winn motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-7-2024 with a second from Councilmember Wingo.

Councilmember Kemper inquired if the members received compensation. Mayor Aubuchon stated board members are paid and usually meet eight-ten times per year.

In the audience, Florence Board of Adjustment and Zoning Appeals Board Member, Tom Judd, stated the Florence Board of Adjustment and Zoning Appeals members are paid \$35.00 per meeting and generally meet four – five times per year.

Councilmember Chambers stated she inquired about board member attendance at the previous meeting and the information was not provided. Based on a review of attendance since the meeting, Mayor Aubuchon stated the appointees average one absence per year in the past three years.

No further discussion was necessitated and based on the motion to approve Municipal Order MO-7-2024 by Councilmember Winn and second by Councilmember Wingo, Mayor Aubuchon requested a Roll Call Vote. Councilmember Carroll, yes; Councilmember Chambers, yes; Councilmember Winn, yes; Councilmember Kemper, no; Councilmember Wingo, yes; Councilmember Osborne, yes. **Roll call recognized five yes votes and one opposed approving Municipal Order MO-7-2024 with a 5-1 majority.**

#### **MUNICIPAL ORDER MO-8-2024:**

Mayor Aubuchon read Municipal Order MO-8-2024. A Municipal Order approving and authorizing Dr. Julie Metzger Aubuchon, as Mayor, to execute for and on behalf of the city of Florence, Kentucky a Memorandum of Agreement with Boone County Veterans Memorial, Inc.

Mayor Aubuchon called for a motion to approve Municipal Order MO-8-2024. Councilmember Wingo motioned to approve Municipal Order MO-8-2024 with a second from Councilmember Winn.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Eric Hall, Public Services Director, to address the Memorandum of Agreement with Boone County Veterans Memorial Inc. Mr. Hall explained that over the past twenty years the city has worked with the Boone County Veterans Memorial led by H. B. Deathridge. The existing monuments were funded by the Boone County Veterans Memorial and have been maintained by the City of Florence; however, until this time, there has been no official agreement clarifying the responsibilities of the city and the Boone County Veterans Memorial. This agreement addresses the responsibilities going forward.

No further discussion was necessitated and based on the motion to approve Municipal Order MO-8-2024 by Councilmember Wingo and second 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 Municipal Order MO-8-2024 by unanimous vote.**

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

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone that the Movies in the Park begins this Friday at the Florence Nature Park beginning @ 8:00 p.m. Movies and popcorn are free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Movies will begin at 8:30 p.m. This Friday is Barbie; Wonka on June 21; and Super Mario Brothers on June 28.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone that the city will host a Mini Golf Tournament on June 22 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the World of Golf.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced City of Florence would celebrate Independence Day with a “Celebrate Independence Day” event on July 3 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. There will be food trucks and live music from “East of Austin” at 7:00 p.m. with a fireworks display at 10:00 p.m. Rain date for fireworks will be July 4 at 10:00 p.m.
- Mayor Aubuchon informed everyone that in observance of Independence Day, city offices will be closed Thursday, July 4.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the city would host an Art & Vendor Festival on July 20 at Bell Park/Historic Main Street Fire Station beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### **RECOGNITION:**

Mayor Aubuchon asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

Councilmember Chambers inquired as to the status of the lights being installed at the skate park. Mr. Hall stated the lighting for the skate park is included in the Parks Master Plan that is pending final approval of the budget.

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, Jeff Mallery:  
Chief Mallery did not desire recognition.

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

Members of the Audience:

Angie Cable, Resident of Florence, stated she attended the budget meeting in May. In her review of the budget, she believed certain grants and budgetary items could be used on other projects. Additionally, she expressed her support for a recreation center in the city.

**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 7:07 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Melissa Kramer  
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk

