



**Florence City Council
Business Meeting
Tuesday, August 26, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky, met in regular session on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 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 three (3) members of council were registered present: Angie Cable, Lesley Chambers, and Patricia Wingo. Councilmembers David M. Schneider, Diane E. Whalen (Vice Mayor), and Gary Winn were absent.

Staff members present were: City Attorney, Thomas R. Nienaber; Finance Director, Jason Lewis; Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren; Chief of Police, Jeff Mallery; 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, Jason Reed.

The following were also present in the audience: Human Services Administrator, Katie James; LINK nky Reporter, David Rotenstein; Chief Executive Officer and Chief Development Officer at Children's Home of Northern Kentucky, Rick Wurth; Executive Director of Student Services of Boone County Schools, Kathy Reutman; Resident of Florence, Thomas A. Judd; Resident of Florence, James Leach; and Resident of Boone County, Roger Berger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Due to a lack of quorum, no action was taken.

PRESENTATION – CHILDREN’S HOME OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua Hunt, Director of Administration/City Administrator, regarding the Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky.

Mr. Hunt explained that over the last two budget cycles, the city allocated about \$50,000 in opioid settlement funds to the Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky. Human Services Administrator Katie James finalized the agreement to release funds as services are provided.

Mayor Aubuchon emphasized these were opioid settlement funds, not tax dollars, with strict rules on use. She noted treatment for substance use disorders qualifies and praised the Children’s Home as a strong provider. She then presented CEO Rick Wurth with a \$100,000 check.

Mr. Wurth thanked the city, noting that the Children’s Home has served the community since the 1880s. He highlighted barriers faced by Medicaid recipients and stressed that untreated mental health and substance use disorders drive issues in schools, the workforce, and incarceration. He said the city’s support would directly address these challenges.

Councilmember Chambers thanked the Children’s Home for its work and asked how families could seek help and how the organization was filling gaps left by school counselor cuts.

Mr. Wurth explained families can start at www.chnk.org, where they can access or be referred to the services needed. He explained that the Children’s Home provides outpatient care in schools and homes, inpatient care, and family support services.

Mayor Aubuchon introduced Kathy Reutman, Boone County Schools Executive Director of Student Services.

Ms. Reutman praised the Children’s Home for providing therapy in schools and residential services in Burlington, noting they also support parents who cannot bring children to appointments and have assisted adults in need.

Mayor Aubuchon thanked her for the partnership.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE O-19-2025:

No action was taken due to a lack of quorum.

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua Hunt to discuss the Electric Franchise Agreement within the City of Florence.

Mr. Hunt explained the ordinance contains 18 sections, most of which are required legal language. He compared a franchise agreement to a lease, noting it allows a company to use city property similar to leasing part of a yard for business purposes. He also addressed misinformation shared on social media and in the newspaper, clarifying that the agreement would not raise electricity

rates. He stressed city council was not imposing a franchise fee, and nothing in the ordinance would increase costs for the utility provider, residents, or businesses in Florence.

CITY INITIATIVES UPDATE:

Mayor Aubuchon called upon Joshua Hunt to discuss the city initiatives update.

Mr. Hunt reported that funds were allocated for the city's next mural project with local artist Christian Dallas, known for large-scale works at CVG Airport, Lawrenceburg, and Newport. He directed everyone's attention to the mural on his presentation. He explained that Chrisitan created the rendering for the side of Stringtown Bar and Grill which would highlight Main Street's history. The design included symbolic elements such as a stagecoach, skunk ("polecat"), pharmacist John Uri Lloyd with flowers and mushrooms, cardinals, and flowing lines for movement and direction.

Before work could begin, Mr. Hunt explained the city must secure a licensing agreement to use and maintain the building wall. Mr. Hunt noted the mural would be completed through a grid process, and owner Rick Potter had already made repairs to prepare the site.

Councilmembers expressed excitement for the long anticipated project.

Mayor Aubuchon emphasized its role in celebrating Florence's history and culture through public art as part of a larger community art plan.

Mr. Hunt also shared that another Main Street mural was in development. He additionally presented renderings from KZF Design for a master plan analyzing five city owned properties. These included properties on US 42, the Main Street property, and 21 Girard Street.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone that this would be the last weekend the Florence Aquatic Center will be open until next Summer.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone to attend the Mini-Golf Tournament and Concert at the World of Golf on Saturday. The tournament runs from 4:30 until 7:00 p.m., followed by live music from the "What About Jane Band" beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the City of Florence offices would be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 in observance of Labor Day.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the City of Florence would hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 3 at 4:30 p.m. regarding the proposed 2025 tax rates on real and personal property. She noted the published rates were the maximum rates permitted by Kentucky law and city council would be able to set the rates below the maximum, which they usually do, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The state requires cities to advertise the maximum rates of real property at \$1.87 per thousand of assessed value. Tangible personal property at \$2.39 per 1,000 of assessed value.

Mayor Aubuchon added the City of Florence is permitted to have a special assessment for hazardous duty for police and fire pensions. The maximum permitted is \$1.47 per thousand of assessed value.

Mayor Aubuchon stated that city council would review financial projections, historical averages, and community impact before setting the actual rates, which may be lower. She added that city council passed the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget that did not include an increase in projected property tax rates, which means property tax rates were not expected to rise.

Mayor Aubuchon stated that if any resident would like to submit comments to be read at the public hearing they would need to contact Melissa Kramer, City Clerk.

- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone the Neighborhood Night Out would be on Tuesday, September 9, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Lincoln Woods Park. The event would include music by DJ Teddy Gi and provide an opportunity for residents to connect with city officials and staff.
- Mayor Aubuchon reminded everyone that the city's Arbor Day would be held on Saturday, September 20 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Florence Government Center.
- Mayor Aubuchon announced the Florence Police Department would hold their Teen Academy beginning October 22 through November 19. The five week class would be held on Wednesdays, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The application is available on the City of Florence website.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Aubuchon asked if any of the following desired recognition:

Members of City Council:

No one desired recognition.

Department Heads:

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.

Fire/EMS Chief, Rodney Wren:

Chief Wren did not desire recognition.

Finance Director, Jason Lewis:

Mr. Lewis did not desire recognition.

Public Services Director, Eric Hall:

Mr. Hall did not desire recognition.

Members of the Audience:

No recognition requested from the audience.

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 Wingo so moved, with a second from Councilmember Chambers. **Councilmembers present voted aye**, the time being 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF
FLORENCE
KENTUCKY®

/s/ Melissa Kramer
Melissa Kramer, City Clerk