



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017

The City Council of the City of Florence, Kentucky met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 27th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Florence Government Center, with Mayor Diane E. Whalen presiding as Chair.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:

Mayor Diane E. Whalen called the regular meeting to order and declared the Regular Session to be open for the presentation of all City business.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called and the following five (5) members of Council were present: Gary Winn, Dr. Julie Metzger Aubuchon, David A. Osborne, Mel Carroll and J. Kelly Huff. Absent was Duane Froelicher.

Also present were City Coordinator Alex Mattingly, City Attorney Hugh O. Skees, Fire/EMS Chief Kelly Aylor, Police Chief John McDermond, Public Services Director Eric Hall, City Engineer Bill Viox, Videographers Matt Miller and Mike McClanahan, Jim Johnson (Chairman of the City of Florence Code Enforcement Board), Vanessa Lenear (Florence Community Events Coordinator,) Jeremy Kleier (Public Services Superintendent), Deb McCarty (Community Projects Administrator), Steve Foltz (10 Valley Drive), members of the Florence Student Ambassador Program (Allison Lindsey, Serria Thorn's Father, Tim Thorn, Jennifer Shaw, Jake Workman, Mike Gilson and Luke Huddleston), Trisha Scheyer (River City News), Police Sergeant Rehkamp and City Clerk Erin Courts.

PRESENTATION:

Florence Student Ambassador Program

Community Events Coordinator Vanessa Lenear gave a brief overview on the Florence Student Ambassador Program along with the requirements for the program. Ms. Lenear then thanked the Ambassador Judges: Linda Bramlage (Boone County Family Court Judge, Council Member Gary Winn, Nancy Tretter, The Post retiree and Coordinator Brenda Sparks. Alumni members Allison Lindsey and Luke Huddleston both spoke about the Program and the positive impact it had on their lives.

Ms. Lenear acknowledged the City's 2016 Student Ambassadors as well as the City's 2017 Student Ambassadors. The 2016 Student Ambassadors are: seniors Chalel Crawford, Sam Huddleston; junior Jennifer Schalk & youth Ambassadors Carmen Joseph & Jake Workman. The 2017 Ambassadors are senior Sam Huddleston, Chalel Crawford, JB Oddhucker, Alesia Sayed and Savannah Kenster. Youth Ambassadors; Jake Workman and Miles Gilson. Additional discussion followed.

Presentation & Possible Action:

Alex Mattingly gave a brief presentation on the foreclosure process regarding the following properties:

The City does have a process that is set forth by Ordinance O-33-05 which puts properties in line for foreclosure for Code Enforcement liens and sets forth six factors that make up the City's criteria. This process is used as a last resort. From here the Code Board will make a recommendation to Council to approve the initiation of the foreclosure action. It will be taken to Boone Circuit Court were a foreclosure complaint is filed, which may lead to the ultimate sale of the property.

(10 Valley Drive) –

Steve Foltz who currently resides on the property was present.

The pending fines on this property amount to \$103,004.00. The City is requesting that City Council approve a Municipal Order to proceed with the foreclosure action. The City has been in contact with Mr. Foltz to attempt abatement on this property however the City is requesting that the foreclosure process continue and if the property comes into compliance, the foreclosure can be ceased.

Jeremy Kleier presented the case of this property with pictures and the violations that are outstanding as well as what is currently being worked on under the abatement plan. Before and after pictures were presented to show the progress toward compliance.

The Mayor asked Jeremy Kleier how long he has been dealing with this property and he responded that he has been dealing with it since the late 1990's.

Jeremy Kleier also mentioned that there was a concern with the water service at this property as it has been turned off for the past three (3) years. Part of the abatement process is getting the water service turned back on at the residence.

Mr. Foltz was given an opportunity to speak about the violations on his property focusing on the grading of the property and the Zoning process. He mentioned that he is having issues getting approval for a zoning permit. Most of the debris has been cleaned up and he met with City representatives on June 9th to walk the property and see what needs to be done per the City's regulations to get in compliance. The front yard has been fixed. Mr. Foltz mentioned that the property is now in his name.

Council Member Osborne asked Mr. Foltz a few questions regarding why he didn't contact anyone at the City when this was first becoming an issue. A brief conversation took place between Council Member Osborne and Mr. Foltz.

Mayor Whalen presented the following Municipal Order for approval:

Municipal Order No. MO-18-17:

A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FILE SUIT SEEKING JUDGMENT FOR UNPAID CIVIL FINES AND SALE OF

THE SUBJECT PROPERTY (10 VALLEY DRIVE) IN SATISFACTION OF THE JUDGMENT.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order No. MO-18-17. Council Member Huff moved, with second from Council Member Carroll, that Municipal Order No. MO-18-17 be approved. A roll call was requested with 4 out of 5 approving the Municipal Order. Council Member Froelicher was not present to vote.

Approved by unanimous vote

(20 Drexel Avenue) –

No one was present regarding this property.

Alex Mattingly stated that the pending fines on this property amount to \$34,111.00. The City is requesting that City Council approve a Municipal Order to proceed with the foreclosure action. There has been no communication with this property owner since 2008 and there is no current abatement plan. The City has maintained the grass and landscaping and has continued to board up doors and windows to keep trespassers from entering the property and to secure the structure.

Jeremy Kleier presented the case of this property with pictures and the violations that are outstanding. Before and after pictures were presented to show what has been changed/fixed and what has not.

Mayor Whalen noted that she has had conversations with neighbors regarding the condition of this property and mentioned that the neighbors deserve better.

Mayor Whalen presented the following Municipal Order for approval:

Municipal Order No. MO-19-17:

A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FILE SUIT SEEKING JUDGMENT FOR UNPAID CIVIL FINES AND SALE OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY (20 DREXEL AVENUE) IN SATISFACTION OF THE JUDGMENT.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order No. MO-19-17. Council Member Huff moved, with second from Council Member Winn, that Municipal Order No. MO-19-17 be approved.

Vice Mayor Aubuchon asked about the status of the property taxes, the Mayor confirmed that the property taxes, electricity and a minimal water bill are all being paid.

Approved by unanimous vote

(88 Meadow Creek Drive) –

No one was present regarding this property.

Alex Mattingly stated the pending fines on this property amount to \$34,712.00. The City is requesting that City Council approve a Municipal Order to proceed with the foreclosure action. The City had no contact with Mr. Fenton who lives in Arizona until this process started. Since then, Mr. Fenton has been in contact with the City to attempt abatement on this property. However the City is requesting that the foreclosure process continue, and if the property comes into compliance, the foreclosure can be ceased.

Jeremy Kleier presented the case of this property with pictures and the violations that are outstanding. He also mentioned that this property is about 80% in compliance at this point. Before and after pictures were presented to show the progress of compliance.

Mayor Whalen presented the following Municipal Order for approval:

Municipal Order No. MO-20-17:

A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FILE SUIT SEEKING JUDGMENT FOR UNPAID CIVIL FINES AND SALE OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY (88 MEADOW CREEK DRIVE) IN SATISFACTION OF THE JUDGMENT.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Municipal Order No. MO-20-17. Council Member Huff moved, with second from Vice Mayor Aubuchon, that Municipal Order No. MO-20-17 be approved.

Approved by unanimous vote

Mayor Whalen mentioned her appreciation to the Code Enforcement Department, Public Services Department and the Code Enforcement Board and the property owners for stepping up and making sure that these problems are taken care of. Mayor Whalen mentioned the memo that was in Council packets notifying them that Code Enforcement Officers will start citing the properties that still have not been fixed from the storm damage from the March 1, 2017 storms. These residents will start receiving letters.

FIRST READING:

Ordinance No. O-12-17

Mayor Whalen presented the following Ordinance for second reading:

Ordinance No. O-12-17:

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY CONSISTING OF A PARCEL OF APPROXIMATELY 2.929 ACRES LOCATED AT THE NORTHEASTWARDLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF WEAVER ROAD, APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET SOUTHWEST OF MORGAN TRACE DRIVE WITHIN THE SADDLEBROOK SUBDIVISION, ADJACENT TO THE CITY LIMITS. (WEAVER ROAD PROPERTIES, LLC)

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-12-17 on first reading. Council Member Huff moved, with second from Council Member Winn, that Ordinance No. O-12-17 be approved on first reading and be held for second and final reading after all of the necessary questions regarding this project are answered. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

Ordinance No. O-13-17

Mayor Whalen presented the following Ordinance for second reading:

Ordinance No. O-13-17:

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PERSONNEL; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. O-11-17 RELATING TO PERSONNEL POLICIES, JOB DESCRIPTIONS, AND AUTHORIZED POSITIONS.

Mayor Whalen called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. O-13-17 on second reading. Council Member Huff moved, with second from Vice Mayor Aubuchon, that Ordinance No. O-13-17 be approved on second reading and be held for second and final reading at the next meeting of Council. **Council approved by unanimous vote.**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Independence Day Celebration will be held on Monday, July 3 from 4:00 - 11:00 pm at the UC Health Stadium, home of the Florence Freedom. The fireworks will begin at 10:00 pm from Elite Pyrotechnics. Additional information is on the City's website as well as Facebook.
- City of Florence Website Launch will be Wednesday, July 5. Big thanks to Deb McCarty and Josh Hunt for working so hard to get it ready to launch!
- City of Florence Independence Day Observed: The Florence Government Center will be closed July 4th and will reopen on Wednesday, July 5. There will also be no Council Meeting on July 4th. Our next meeting will be on July 11th.
- July Night Out will be held on July 11, 2017 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Florence Nature Park.

CITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- Alex Mattingly had no report.

RECOGNITION:

Mayor Whalen asked if any Department Head desired recognition:

- Public Services Director Eric Hall gave a report regarding the upcoming construction that will begin on Center Street, Curtis Avenue, New Buffington Road, Yealey Drive, Renegade Way and Woodland Avenue.

Mayor Whalen asked if any Council Member desired recognition;

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- Vice Mayor Aubuchon mentioned that the Florence Freedom Baseball team is currently in first place in the Frontier League.
- Council Member Winn mentioned what a great job The KY Transportation Cabinet did on the repaving of Hopeful Church Road.

Mayor Whalen asked if anyone in the audience desired recognition; no one desired recognition.


EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION:

There was no need for an Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Whalen called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Huff so moved, with second from Council Member Carroll and **unanimous approval of Council**, the time being 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED:



Diane E. Whalen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Erin M. Courts, City Clerk

CITY OF

FLORENCE

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