

## CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

February 7, 2023

6:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Elsmere Community Center.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Councilwoman Maria Vogt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** The following members were present: Mayor Marty Lenhof, Councilwoman Maria Vogt, Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs, Councilman Malcolm Daniels, Councilwoman Serena Owen, Councilwoman Missy Tester, and Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith.

### **AUDIENCE REMARKS:**

Mr. Brian Wharton, 6 Cobbler Court, addressed the council concerning the possibility of having chickens within the city limits.

Mr. Erik Bunzow, 518 Ripple Creek Drive, addressed the council about the speeding in his neighborhood. He asked the city if it would be possible to install a speed hump. Councilwoman Owen asked Mr. Bunzow if speeding had been a problem. Matt stated that the city had done a speed study in the past but would have another one done. Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs agreed that the city would need to do another study.

Ms. Sarah Hillman, 442 Ripple Creek Drive, addressed the council concerning the federal lawsuit with Flagship Communities. Attorney Greg Voss stated that the city is in the early stage of this and there is not anything to share at this moment.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**City Building Final Change Order Presentation** – Charley Robinson from Summit Engineering addressed the council. He stated that the building is approximately ninety-eight percent (98%) complete. He stated that throughout the project the city has had to add additional items to initial bid, at the next council meeting the council will be presented with eight (8) new change orders. These change orders include the basement, storm sewer system, code items, low voltage, additional owner requests, additional site works, and miscellaneous items. The total for the change orders is \$670,673.00.

**Chicken Ordinance** – Councilman Malcolm Daniels stated that he recommended the city do a pilot program to allow chickens in the city. He stated that the city could allow five to ten residents initially have chickens. He recommended having an application process and talking with neighbors to make sure they will be good with their neighbor having chickens.

Councilwoman Serena Owen stated that she was in favor of the city having a pilot program for residents having chickens. She stated that she would like to have one of the guidelines to be that they are required to have a fence. She stated that she didn't feel that it was necessary to discuss it with the neighbors.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith stated that she was also in favor of a pilot program for residents to have chickens. She also does not feel that it was necessary to discuss it with the neighbors.

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs stated that she is against having chickens in the city limits and when it is brought up for a vote that she would be voting no.

Councilwoman Missy Testers stated that she is on the fence on whether the city should allow chickens, but she agrees if the city wishes to allow chickens that it should be on a pilot basis. She also agrees that it is not necessary to discuss it with neighbors.

Councilwoman Maria Vogt asked the other council members if the city is going to require a fence what type of fence would be required, should it be privacy or a chain link. Also, if it is only a trial period, would it be fair to require a fence.

Attorney Greg Voss was instructed to prepare an ordinance for approval at the March council meeting.

**Budget Process Discussion and CIP Budget Process Discussions** – City Administrator Matt Dowling gave council a brief overview of the process the city staff uses to draft the budget. He stated that budget discussions have already began and a draft of the budget will be presented to council in April. After discussions of the draft a final would be presented to council for approval in May for a first reading and in June for the second reading. He stated that the CIP Budget is a new budget for the city in 2023. He stated that it would mainly be used for fleet purchases as the lead time to purchase vehicles has increased tremendously. The staff will work to adopt a policy for this budget. It will also be presented as a draft in April and for readings in May and June.

**Simon Kenton Post #20 Discussion** – City Administrator Matt Dowling stated that the post had purchased some land behind their building and would like to extend their parking lot and add a gazebo. But in order to do so they will need to get a variance from the Kenton County Board of Adjustment.

**Student Government Meeting** – Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith explained to the council about the process of the student government meeting. The meeting will be held on February 14, 2023.

Councilman Malcolm Daniels asked the city to entertain the idea of having a sign placed on Turkeyfoot Road. Mayor Lenhof stated that he would have Summit design something.

Councilwoman Serena Owen wanted to thank the city for sponsoring her to attend the Kentucky League of Cities Orientation in December and the academy in January. She stated that she attended the KY Alliance meeting in January and also the Kenton County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting. She wanted comment inform residents that the Lloyd High School Student Destiny Owen and the Community Heroes will be partnering to help students in need with free formal wear so they can attend their prom or homecoming.

She stated that during the KLC Academy that the City of Erlanger is a certified city of Ethics, but the City of Elsmere is not.

**Closed Executive Session:**

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to enter closed/executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1) (b) proposed or pending litigation. Councilwoman Vogt seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Council entered closed/executive session at 7:54 p.m.

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to reconvene regular session and stated that no action was taken. Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith seconded the motion. Regular session resumed at 8:14 p.m.

**No Further Action was taken.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Vogt adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Misty Ezell, City Clerk