

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

June 6, 2023

6:30 PM

LOCATION: Elsmere City Building.

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 Missy Tester, and Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith.

Councilwoman Serena Owen arrived late.

Mayor L

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Ms. Kathryn Hernandez (1097 Henry Street) addressed the council concerning a vacant home, 1092 Henry Street, on her street where the grass is tall. Mr. Dowling stated that the house has been cited a couple of times already. He stated that the city had a gentleman come in who is affiliated with the estate and stated that the condition of home is not going anywhere any time soon. The city will have to maintain it from a grass perspective and any property maintenance issues will be handled through liens. He cautioned her that the nature of code enforcement takes a while. The process is all spelled out legally on how to handle these issues.

Ms. Betty Roszman, 1215 Central Row Rd., addressed the council about the Erlanger Elsmere Historical Society. She stated that they are starting a membership drive. The membership drive will last until August. The society will have a meeting on Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 pm at the Elsmere Community Center. They plan to take part in the Juneteenth celebration. She asked to have a member at the Summer Kick Off event on June 8th, to pass out flyers.

Ms. Jessica Gutch who lives at 221 Wells Street, asked if the city would possibly put in a speed hump at Short May Street,

Mr. Eric Bunzow, 518 Ripple Creek Drive, stated that he planned to update the council on the Urban Chickens within the city. Mr. Bunzow stated that the City of Erlanger has only had two complaints during the time that they allowed chickens. Those complaints were about residents with roosters. He stated that they were given five days to remove them and all complied. He stated that when you purchase baby chickens you do not know whether you have roosters or hens. You will not know until they make sounds. He stated that if he had roosters, he had already made arrangements to rehome them.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Senior Housing Development Presentation – Mr. Dowling stated that H & S Development Partners approached the city with a project that they are pursuing called the Sanctuary on Edwards. He introduced Ms. Bonnie Harbage from H & S Partners who had a presentation to present to the council. This project needs a zoning change to move forward. If they do not get the change then the parcel may be filled with single family units such as a subdivision which will increase the volume of traffic, which was one of the concerns that were brought up. Ms. Harbage stated that she had submitted a conditional use permit and a variance to Kenton County PDS and on June 21st she will be at the Independence Courthouse making her case for the conditional use permit. She will also be submitting a map amendment this will change zoning all together. She wishes to not have to do a map amendment as it will delay the start of the project. But if the conditional use is denied they will be in the cue for the map amendment. On August 1st if the project has not been approved then the funding will be recaptured and there is no possibility of project. She is currently working on the building permits to be submitted prior to August 1st.

Car Wash 3848 Turkeyfoot Road – City Administrator Matt Dowling stated that the city was contacted by a car wash company called Blue Roo Carwash, who has locations in Alexandria and Ohio about acquiring a property on Turkeyfoot Road to build a carwash. This property would need a map amendment to move forward. But the ownership company wanted to get a feel to see if the city would be interested in obtaining a car wash in the city

prior to spending the time and money to acquire the location. There have not been any formal applications at this time.

Rumpke Renewal – City Administrator Matt Dowling stated that it is time to renew our contract with Rumpke for our waste services. The renewal rate will be \$17.95 per user. The council will not need to act as it has already been approved. He just wanted to let them know. He stated that several cities went together to re-bid and the outcome was much higher. The city was fortunate to lock in a multi-year contract when they did.

No Action Taken

Councilwoman Grubbs wanted to say to City Administrator Dowling that he truly deserved to receive the City Administrator of the year award. She stated that he is good to work with and goes out of his way for staff and the residents. She wanted to say congratulations to him.

Councilman Daniels stated that the Juneteenth celebration is coming up in two weekends. The kickball league will start in July. It will run every Saturday in July.

Councilwoman Barnett Smith stated that the city is an ambassador for the Kenton County summer reading program. The program runs from June to the end of July. June 8th will be the Summer Kick Off event for the city. And the Historical Society meeting will be on that night as well.

Councilwoman Vogt had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Tester had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Owen wanted to first apologize for her tardiness, she was at the City of Erlanger speaking. She stated that she is a part of the Northern Kentucky Juneteenth committee, and we have Juneteenth coming up which is a day of freedom honoring and recognizing the emancipation from slavery for African Americans. She sent a special invitation to the City of Erlanger during their council meeting and would like to extend the same special invitation to the City of Elsmere to come and join the committee at the celebrations. It's a weekend long celebration that begins in Newport at the African American History Museum on Friday from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. On Saturday June 17th starting with a 9:30am parade at the Lincoln Grant Scholar House traveling to the Covington Landing and celebrating with free activities for kids, music, awards, booths, food trucks, and fun for the whole family until 10pm. The city of Elsmere is welcome to join the parade. On Sunday June 18th starting with a 9:30am parade in Elsmere, KY traveling up Garvey to First Baptist Church of Elsmere (1007 Garvey) and celebrating with music, information booths and giveaways, and family fun until 5pm! All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

Mayor Lenhof stated that on the agenda for the council meeting we will need to add the Elsmere Scholarship. He thanked Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs, Councilwoman Missy Tester, and Patsy Acra for reviewing the scholarships.

Attorney Voss stated that June 6th is D day, to reach out and thank all the servicemen.


ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Vogt called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Tester made the motion and Councilwoman Owen seconded. The meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Attest:



Mayor Marty Lenhof



Misty Ezell, City Clerk