

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

August 8, 2023

6:30 PM

LOCATION: Elsmere City Building

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Mayor Lenhof called for a moment of silence to honor former police chief Tim Greene, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION – KRS 61.810 (1) (d) discussions or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee without restricting that employee's right to a public hearing. Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to enter executive session at 6:34 pm and Councilwoman Maria Vogt seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion carried. Councilwoman Serena Owen made a motion to reconvene to come out of closed session and reconvene regular session. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion carried. Regular session reconvened at 6:54.1

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Barnett Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023, Council Meeting. Councilwoman Vogt seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023, Council Meeting. Councilwoman Vogt seconded the motion to approve with corrections by Councilwoman Owen. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Code Enforcement Officer Chris Preston & Zoning Administrator Rich Aliff were not in attendance but submitted written reports to Council.

City Attorney Greg Voss reported that when the prior council overturned a planning and zoning decision. There was a lawsuit filed in Kenton Circuit Court and the court has now dismissed the entire case. There are some items still at the federal level, but he feels confident that those will be handled as well.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen reported that in July the department worked on the sidewalks and driveways on Robinson Way. They will be doing concrete repairs in Pebble Creek. He stated that grass cutting is ongoing. He stated that the pole behind the old police department will be replaced at some point.

Councilwoman Barnett Smith thanked him for help on 6 Eastern Ave.

Police Chief Joe Maier was not in attendance.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue had no report.

City Clerk Misty Ezell Had no report.

City Treasurer Jessica Lucius submitted a written report. There were no questions for this department.

Community Center Director Carol Cope was not in attendance but submitted a written report. There were no questions for this department.

The mayor's Report stated that the mayor's group meeting was held in July and was well attended.

City Administrator's Report **City Administrator Dowling** stated he had been busy handling personnel items. He stated that this would be the last meeting he attended in Elsmere and that he genuinely appreciated the opportunity to work with this great city. He stated that the last couple of months had been difficult and that he would miss the work and opportunities that he had. He wished to thank the council and community.

General Items:

Resolution 6-2023 – Appointing Tim Thames as Interim Police Chief

City Clerk Misty Ezell read the resolution in summary.

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilwoman Barnett Smith Seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof called for a rollcall vote. Councilwoman Owen – Aye, Councilwoman Tester – Aye, Councilwoman Vogt – Aye, Councilwoman Barnett Smith – Aye, Councilman Daniels – Aye, and Councilwoman Grubbs – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Municipal Order 5-2023 - – Expending ARPA Funds to purchase Body Worn Cameras, Evidence Management Systems, A Video Storage Server, Docking Stations, Power Supply and Other Equipment.

City Clerk Misty Ezell read the order in summary.

Councilman Daniels made a motion to approve the order as read. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion Carried.**

Municipal Order 6-2023 - Expending ARPA Funds to purchase 3500 Black Diesel Pickup Short Bed

City Clerk Misty Ezell read the order in summary.

Councilwoman Owen made a motion to approve the order as read. Councilwoman Tester seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion Carried.**

Ordinance 1827-2023 – First Reading – Updating Personnel Policy

City Attorney Voss read the ordinance in summary for the first reading.

Council Reports:

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs – would like to thank the mayor for putting something on Facebook for Tim Greene, and placing the flags at half-staff. She would like to wish City Administrator Matt Dowling the best of luck and would like to thank him for all the work he has done. She also welcomed Tim Thames back.

Councilman Malcolm Daniels – Would like to offer his condolences to the Greene family. He also would like to wish Matt Dowling well on his new career with Boone County. Also like to wish all the teachers and students a great school year.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith. – would like to offer condolences to the Greene family. She stated that on November 4th there is a hazardous waste collection from 9:00 -2:00 on Freedom Way. She also stated that residents should do their duty and vote.

Councilwoman Maria Vogt – would like to thank Matt. She also reminded me that if a buses yellow arm is out to please stop. She stated that the new bricks had been received but not installed.

Councilwoman Missy Tester – condolences to the Greene family. She thanked Matt. Also reminded everyone to watch for students as they start school.

Councilwoman Serena Owen – Offered condolences and prayers to Greene family. She thanked Matt and stated that he would be missed.

Thank City of Elsmere and Parks and Recreation Department for the Elsmere day at the Florence Waterpark. She had heard great feedback. She appreciated all the activities throughout the summer.

She shared that the day is August 8th. On August 8, 1863, Andrew Johnson, Tennessee Military Governor, who was our 17th president of the United States, freed enslaved African Americans, some of which were his children. This date became known as Emancipation Day. Like Juneteenth, the Eighth of August for many African American communities in Western Kentucky commemorates another day of freedom from slavery. The 8th of August is both an Emancipation celebration and a homecoming, and it's been a tradition in Western KY since the 1860s.

She attended our Kenton Co. Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting in July and as a member of the Education Committee we celebrated and recognized our Lloyd HS Envirothon team who won a Regional and State Award! Congratulations and keep up the great work! To all students interested advocating for our environment, please consider signing up for the Envirothon Club at your school. It's an amazing group and opportunity to help your school and our community.

Thank you to one of our Elsmere youth leaders in our community named Destiny Owen who reached out to us and Erlanger's City Council following up on her request from two years ago in 2021 asking our Mayor Lenhof and City Council to support student safety with a Student Safety Resolution that she emailed to Mayor Lenhof, City Administrator Matt, and our Elsmere City Council. In 2021 she also submitted a petition with signatures of over 100 supporters. Destiny's August 1, 2023, email reads: Dear Mayor Lenhof and Elsmere City Council,

I am an Elsmere youth leader who helps and volunteers in our community and thank you for organizing the Student Government Day. I enjoyed participating and learning from you.

I helped with our Elsmere City Clean Up when we had them and I currently help with my annual Holiday outreach for students and families, a Free Formalwear Giveaway for High School and College students, helping during Vacation Bible School at my church in Elsmere, and with fresh free food and school supplies for students, people, and families in need in our school district and community. I like helping people and with students and our Resource Officer getting hit by vehicles going to and from school and with school shootings in our country, and bullying in our schools, I want to help support student and school safety. I am following up on my 2021 request two years ago for your support of our students and school safety through a Student and School Safety proclamation or resolution in honor of the National and Kentucky Safe Schools week in October. This year it will be October 15-21, 2023.

I hope our city of Elsmere will care and say yes to support Student and School Safety. Please see the sample proclamation/resolution language in my email below.

Will you please help us and support Student & School Safety with a proclamation or resolution for this year and every year? Thank you, Destiny Owen

She would like to hopefully have this on the agenda.

In the month of August we celebrate many things like: [National Golf Month](#), [New Student Orientation](#), National Eye Exam Month, [Fishing Month](#), 4th U.S. Coast Guard Day, [4th International Beer Day](#), [8th International Cat Day](#), [9th Book Lovers Day](#), [12th International Youth Day](#), [15th Relaxation Day](#), [21st Senior Citizens Day](#), 26th Women's Equality Day, and [26th National Dog Day](#). It's also National Black Business Month, Don't Be a Bully Month, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month, World Cancer Support Month, and International Friendship Day was August 6th. As our students and School Heroes (district workers, leaders, volunteers) return to school, let's be mindful of, help keep them safe, and value them by leading in a spirit of love and following the Golden Rule to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Love is not a quick fix to life's challenges, but it's a start. Have a wonderful rest of your summer and a safe and successful school year!

Councilwoman Barnett Smith stated that on August 10th the Historical Society will be hosting an event.

Councilwoman Owen stated that on August 11th there would be a back-to-school block party at Lloyd High School.

ADJOURNMENT

August 8, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Missy Tester Seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Attest: Misty Ezell
Misty Ezell, City Clerk

Marty Lenhof
Mayor Marty Lenhof