

## MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

July 11, 2023

6:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Elsmere City Building

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** The invocation was given by Councilman Malcolm Daniels, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Marty Lenhof was not in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023, Council Meeting. Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith seconded the motion. Councilwoman Vogt asked for a roll call vote. Councilwoman Tester – Yes, Councilman Daniels – yes, Councilwoman Grubbs – yes, Councilwoman Barnett Smith – yes, Councilwoman Vogt – yes, and Councilwoman Owen – Present but not voting. **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** was not in attendance.

**Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen** was not in attendance, he submitted a written report.

**Police Chief Joe Maier** stated that half of the department has completed first aid and CPR training. Chief Maier became a board member for the Northern Kentucky Law Enforcement Peer Support Team. Detective Higgins and Detective Young did a great job at the first training class that was held at the city building. There were twenty-three students who attended, and the topic was human trafficking. The city has been asked to hold the training again. Sgt. Machal, Officer Jones, and Officer Perkins attended the funeral of the fallen Scott County officer. Friday July 14<sup>th</sup> the department teamed up with St. Vincent Depaul to cram the cruiser.

**Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue** submitted a written report.

**City Clerk Misty Ezell** stated that second invoices for Residential Rental license were mailed with a due date of June 30<sup>th</sup>, after that a lien will be placed on those that have not been paid. Working on the open house. Councilwoman Grubbs asked if we had a date. The date for the open house is tentatively set for July 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Mayors Report** was not in attendance.

**City Administrator's Report City Administrator Dowling** stated the city is working on a banking RFP. The plan is to have this for the August meeting for the council approval. The rest of month was implementing new budget and health insurance.

### **General Items:**

**There were no general discussion items.**

**Council Reports:**

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs – had no report.

Councilman Malcolm Daniels – The Juneteenth weekend was a great success.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith. – attended the Juneteenth celebration. She stated there was a gentleman there who told stories. She stated the library read a thon continues until the end of July. July 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a movie night.

Councilwoman Maria Vogt – had no report.

Councilwoman Missy Tester – had no report.

Councilwoman Serena Owen - Thank you to the City of Elsmere, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Police & Fire Departments for organizing and hosting an awesome Summer Kick Off event in June!

At the end of May and beginning of June I attended the KY Judicial Mental Health Summit in Louisville, Ky. It was well attended, very informative, and we even got to have a couple strategic planning sessions during the conference with other Kenton County leaders like Judges, Social workers, Law Enforcement, and local and county Civic Leaders like me and Erlanger Councilwoman Renee Wilson. It was an awesome educational experience and I brought back information and goodies for our Mayor, Council, and other city leaders. Enjoy!

Thank you to the City of Elsmere for the Juneteenth Proclamation, raising the Juneteenth flags for the month of June, and for supporting and participating in the Juneteenth Celebration in Elsmere! I supported participated in the Juneteenth Celebrations in Newport at the Southgate School for Colored Students which is now the Newport African American Museum on Friday June 16th, in Covington on Saturday June 17th at the Landing along the Ohio River, and in Elsmere on Sunday June 18th at First Baptist Church of Elsmere. All celebrations were informative, festive, and fun! Many thanks to the NKY Juneteenth visionary and Juneteenth Committee for recognizing folk like my First Baptist Church of Elsmere Pastor Norman D. Blankenship, Erlanger Councilwoman Renee Wilson, myself, and many others whom I plan to recognize in August for being honored with NKY Juneteenth Black Excellence Awards for service in our communities! Congratulations to all honorees!

As promised, I am providing our Elsmere Mayor, Council, and Administration with a copy of the City of Frankfort, Lexington, and Covington's CROWN Act that I encourage and ask the City of Elsmere to pass in support of our residents, students, workers, consumers, and to protect our Elsmere community members from hair discrimination. I am asking our Elsmere City Administrator and Mayor to please include this as an agenda item so we can have a 1st reading during our August City Council meeting please. Thank you.

I have been attending the local Erlanger Diversity and Inclusion Task Force since Councilwoman Renee Wilson and the Erlanger City Council renewed it this year. We were also a part of the Diversity Race & Relations Task Force in 2021-22. The renewed Diversity and Inclusion Task Force has had several meetings since April that has shared our local Women's and Black History and educated participants on what diversity is. For example, Diversity is the range of human differences, including but not limited to age, social class, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, political beliefs etc. Diversity is the practice of including or involving people who have a range of differences. The Diversity & Inclusion Task Force is open to everyone and currently receiving feedback through a brief survey that I shared on my Facebook page. If you are interested in learning more about our local diverse history and want to help support diversity and inclusion in our local shared communities, please attend the next meeting on Tuesday July 25th at 6pm in the Erlanger City Building. Food will be provided. Hope to see you on Tuesday July 25th at 6pm at the Erlanger City building for the local Diversity & Inclusion Task Force meeting. All are

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welcome! Thank you, Councilwoman Renee Wilson, for this great local community focused inclusive initiative. You are appreciated!

Congratulations to our City of Elsmere Scholarship recipients and I hope all students, educators, families, and community members are having a fun and relaxing summer! Please stay safe and Enjoy!

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Missy Tester Seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attest:

Misty Ezell  
Misty Ezell, City Clerk

Marty Lenhof  
Mayor Marty Lenhof