

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL
March 5, 2024
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: Councilwoman Maria Vogt, Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs, Councilman Malcolm Daniels, Councilwoman Missy Tester, Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith, and Councilwoman Serena Owen. Mayor Marty Lenhof was also present.

AUDIENCE REMARKS:

Kaylah Siemer, 322 Swan Circle, addressed ongoing drainage issues and water retention on her property. Mr. Zerhusen was made aware of the issue last fall. He has contacted SD1 and will need to engage the assistance of the City Engineer. The project will be rather extensive as there is not a catch basin that is nearby to tie into. Ms. Siemer has concerns about the safety of her children due to all the issues and the ability to sell the property in the future if the water issues are not addressed. She wanted to make sure that her issues had not been forgotten.

Diana Tanner, 434 Bedinger Street, addressed concerns about 2 adjacent properties to her, 441 and 435 Bedinger Street. She stated they are working on vehicles in the street at all hours and the vehicles are on jacks. She believes the property is being used as sleeping rooms. She has reported the issue to PDS in the past and has never received a return call. Ms. Tanner is very concerned about the safety of her grandkids when they visit.

Brandon Morgan, 416 Lytle Avenue, stated his daughter had the opportunity to participate in the Student Government Meeting and enjoyed it. She was partnered with Councilwoman Owen. Mr. Morgan asked about plans to improve Woodside Park. He would like to see it put to better use and suggested planting more trees and would like to see paved walking trails, as there aren't many sidewalks in Elsmere.

Chief Wood shared the designs for new Police Department Badges. He also highlighted the outstanding efforts of the department in a recent multi-jurisdiction event on Interstate 75. The use of the drone proved vital in the safety of all first responders at the scene, as a lethal dose of fentanyl was on the suspect. The suspect was reported to be armed and dangerous. The City of Covington sent a letter to the Police Department thanking them for their drone, as it was a vital resource to resolve the matter peacefully. As a result, everyone was able to walk away from the situation. Chief Wood also highlighted training the department provides, which includes driving and maneuvering at high speeds, with a certified instructor in a controlled environment. The department also had training in tactics of conceal and cover. He stated the new hire has been moved up and will begin the Academy in 2 weeks.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan – The council was given Municipal Order 4-2024 Adopting the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith made the motion to adopt the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Councilwoman Owen seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken. 5 members voted aye. Councilwoman Grubbs voted nay. Motion Carried.

City Wide Yard Sale – Councilwoman Barnett Smith would like to set the date for the annual City-Wide Yard Sale. She stated it is historically held the weekend between Mother's Day and Memorial Day. The date was selected for the 2-day sale to be held on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th.

KY Medical Cannabis Zoning Discussion – Information was provided to make Councilmembers aware that the issue of Medical Cannabis Zoning is being discussed at the State and will be followed closely to see how the City needs to prepare for upcoming legislation.


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Official City Emails – The use of City emails is encouraged for all Council members and staff. NKOL provides IT support to the City and Ms. Hehman will assist anyone that needs assistance to setup the email account in their name.

Short Term Rentals – City Attorney Voss provided an update that the State is currently discussing legislation that could prevent any jurisdiction from banning short term rentals. He will follow the current legislative session and continue to monitor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Vogt asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith made a motion to adjourn, and Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.



Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:



Katie Hehman, City Clerk