

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL

January 9, 2024

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: Mayor Marty Lenhof, Councilwoman Maria Vogt, Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith, Councilman Malcolm Daniels, Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs, and Councilwoman Missy Tester.

Councilwoman Serena Owen was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023, Council Meeting. Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Caucus Meeting. Councilwoman Maria Vogt seconded the motion. 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. There were no questions for this department.

City Attorney Greg Voss Was not in attendance.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen Was not in attendance.

Police Chief Russ Wood Chief Wood stated that filling vacancies within the department remains his highest priority. The on-going efforts will continue until the agency is at full capacity. He has interviewed four potential candidates and has extended formal offers of employment to two officers. Both are non-certified officers and will attend basic training in early May. He is also actively negotiating with a certified officer who will bring eleven years of law enforcement experience to the staff.

Officer Sanchez began his employment with the city on December 18th and is currently in the field training program with a completion date set for January 19, 2024.

Officer Brian Evans was called to assist the Covington and Cincinnati Police Departments on December 8th on a vehicle pursuit that ended on I-75SB at the Cut in the Hill. The offender, who was reported to be armed and dangerous, stopped in the middle of the interstate and refused to comply with the officers on the scene. Officer Evans was requested to deploy the drone for safety concerns. He was able to provide "real time" surveillance on both the vehicle and violator. He was able to see that the violator had overdosed on a lethal amount of Fentanyl and needed immediate medical treatment. He determined that the scene was not safe for officers to approach without proper "personal protection equipment." With his actions the violator's life was saved and he prevented Fentanyl exposure to the officers on the scene.

During the month of December, the department attended two community events.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue reported that the city held the Christmas Light Up the Park in December. The event had presents for children, carriage rides, and Santa and Mrs. Claus. She wanted to thank the police department for traffic control for the event.

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She is currently working on a Strike and Spare bowling event for January and the Student Government meeting in February. She has also begun working on the Spring and Summer events.

City Clerk Misty Ezell Stated that during the month of December the clerk's office spent time collecting property tax bills and reviewing the Code of Ordinance book.

City Treasurer Jessica Lucius submitted a written report. She stated that the audit presentation will be at the February Caucus, and she is working on a budget amendment for March.

Community Center Director Carol Cope submitted a written report. There were no questions for this department.

Councilwoman Barnett Smith made a motion to approve the Administrative Reports. Councilwoman Vogt seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

The Mayor's Report – Mayor Lenhof reported the Christmas Party will be held at the Elsmere city building in 2024. He stated that there will be able to have the games in the sally port area and have a bigger tree. He wanted to thank Denise for her hard work.

City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Bartlett stated the city has closed the recruitment for the Deputy Clerk position. There is a plan to interview five candidates.

He stated that the city is extending mutual aid to the City of Independence to hold a vehicle in the sally port that is the evidence in an ongoing investigation.

General Items:

Executive Order 1-2024 – Appointing Mayor Lenhof to PDS Council and Gloria Grubbs as an alternate.

Resolution 1-2-24 – Diversey Resolution

City Clerk Misty Ezell read the Resolution in summary.

Councilman Daniels made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilwoman Tester Seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion Carried and so ordered.**

Council Reports

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs – Had no report.

Councilman Malcolm Daniels – Wanted to wish the residents of Elsmere Prosperity and Health.

Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith – Reported that the Historical Society would be having a presentation the upcoming Thursday night at the Elsmere Community Center. The presentation will be about the Dusing Brothers Icehouse and will include a power point presentation with pictures of the inside of the building.

Councilwoman Maria Vogt – Had no report.

Councilwoman Missy Tester – Had no report.

Councilwoman Serena Owen – was not in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith Seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Attest:

Katei Hhman
City Clerk

Marty Lenhof
Mayor Marty Lenhof

