

MEETING MINUTES OF THE ELSMERE CITY COUNCIL
May 14, 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 Gloria Grubbs Councilman Malcolm Daniels, Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith, Councilwoman Maria Vogt, and Councilwoman Missy Tester. Councilwoman Serena Owen was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Grubb made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024, Council Meeting. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Barnett-Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 09, 2024, Open Meeting. Councilman Daniels seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

Councilwoman Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024, Caucus Meeting. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. **Motion carried and so ordered.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

City Attorney – Mr. Voss stated that the City will need to decide on the medical cannabis issue. Mr. Bartlett stated that Mrs. Sharmili Reddy, Executive Director, PDS, has offered to make a presentation to Council. Mr. Bartlett will reach out to schedule a presentation for the June 4th Caucus Meeting.

Public Works Director Chris Zerhusen – Mr. Zerhusen reported the department is working on keeping up with the grass mowing and parks maintenance now that the weather is warming up. Crack Sealing has begun in the City. Several guard rails have been repaired. The decorative streetscape in front of US Bank will be completed prior to the Memorial Day parade. Robbie Burnet completed the program for his Class A CDL.

Police Chief Russ Wood – Chief Wood stated that filling vacancies within the department remains his highest priority until the agency is at full capacity. Officer Perry is doing well at the Police Academy. Officer Adam Markesbery has been moved up and will start the Police Academy on June 7th. Car theft across Northern Kentucky has been up, specifically targeting Kia and Hyundai vehicles. Chief Wood invited everyone to attend the Northern Kentucky Police Memorial on May 15th at 10 a.m. in Covington. The VFW Memorial Day is May 27th at 9 a.m.

City Clerk Katie Hehman – Ms. Hehman reported that interviews for the Deputy Clerk position had been conducted and a conditional offer of employment was extended and accepted. Residential Rental License Fees continue to come and are due by May 31st. Meetings have been ongoing to finalize employee benefits for the upcoming fiscal year.

City Treasurer Jessica Lucius – Ms. Lucius that she prepared a budget amendment for consideration.

Code Enforcement Officer & Zoning – Mr. Chris Preston, PDS and Mr. Rich Aliff were not in attendance but submitted written reports to Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Denise Donahue – Councilman Daniels stated that kickball is still ongoing. A calendar of upcoming events was submitted.

Community Center Director Carol Cope submitted a written report.

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mr. Bartlett thanked all the staff for their hard work to maintain the City and work on the upcoming fiscal year budget. Mr. Bartlett stated Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman will be speaking at the Police Memorial.

THE MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Lenhoff reported that new shirts have been ordered for the Memorial Day Parade. The City Building is a polling place on Election Day. Plans continue for the Ribbon Cutting and Open House date for the City Building and are targeted for June 20th. The Summer Kick-off will be held in the City Building parking lot on June 6th from 6-8 p.m. Anyone that would like to be in the parade should report to the VFW. Following the parade the Veterans, families and staff are invited to attend a small luncheon.

GENERAL ITEMS:

Resolution 2-2024 Authorizing the Mayor to sign Joinder Agreement with KDC – Ms. Hehman conducted a reading of the resolution. Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to approve resolution 2-2024. Councilwoman Barnett Smith Seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof called for a voice vote: All members present voted aye. **Motion Carried and so ordered.**

Municipal Order 9-2024 Surplus 3500 Truck – Ms. Hehman conducted a reading of the municipal order. Councilwoman Tester made a motion to approve the municipal order as read. Councilwoman Grubbs Seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof called for a voice vote: All members present voted aye. **Motion Carried and so ordered.**

Municipal Order 10-2024 Authorizing Interlocal with Housing Authority of Covington for HCV – Ms. Hehman conducted a reading of the municipal order. Councilman Daniels made a motion to approve the municipal order as read. Councilwoman Barnett Smith Seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof called for a voice vote: All members present voted aye. **Motion Carried and so ordered.**

Ordinance 1832-2024 – 2nd Reading – Adding Code Enforcement Liens to Property Tax Bills – Attorney Voss conducted the second reading of Ordinance 1832-2024. Councilwoman Vogt made the motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Grubbs seconded the motion. Mayor Lenhof called for a roll call vote. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith – **Aye**, Councilman Daniels – **Aye**, Councilwoman Grubbs – **Aye**, Councilwoman Tester – **Aye**, Councilwoman Vogt – **Aye**, Councilwoman Owen – **Absent**
Motion carried and so ordered.

Ordinance 1833-2024 – 1st Reading FY 23/24 Amended Budget
Attorney Voss conducted the first reading of the Ordinance.

Ordinance 1834-2024 – 1st Reading FY 24/25 Proposed Budget
Attorney Voss conducted the first reading of the Ordinance.

Ordinance 1835-2024 – 1st Reading FY 24/25 Pay Scale
Attorney Voss conducted the first reading of the Ordinance.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilwoman Missy Tester – No report.

Councilwoman Maria Vogt – Councilwoman Vogt thanked the Police Department for their hard work.

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Councilwoman Joanne Barnett Smith – Councilwoman Barnett Smith thanked Chief Wood and Mr. Zerhusen.

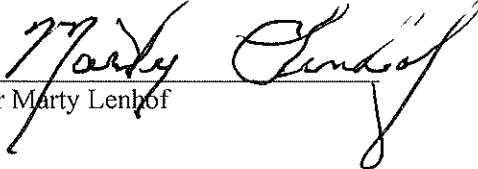
Councilman Malcolm Daniels – Councilman Daniels echoed the sentiments and thanked the Chief. He reminded everyone to vote on Election Day.

Councilwoman Gloria Grubbs – Councilwoman Grubbs thanked Mr. Bartlett for his efforts to decorate the City Building. She thanked the Police Officers for their dedication.

Councilwoman Serena Owen – absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Grubbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Barnett-Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



Mayor Marty Lenhof

Attest:



Katie Hehman/City Clerk