

MEETING
ERLANGER COUNCIL
January 4, 2005

Mayor Marc T. Otto, Sr. called the regular meeting of the Erlanger City Council to order in the City of Erlanger Council Chambers at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 4, 2005.

Reverend Larry Stiles of the Erlanger Church of Christ opened the meeting with a prayer, after which the Members of Council and citizens pledged allegiance to the flag.

The following Members of Council were present: Randy Blankenship, Jim Burger, Kevin Burke, John Dunhoft, Paul Hahn, Brian Hammond, Keith Henry, Bill Howard, Vicki Kyle, Frank Rose, Greg Sandel and Patty Suedkamp.

Also present were: Police Chief Marc Fields, Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig, Codes Administrator Dave Hahn, City Clerk Linda Carter, Jerry Knochelmann Finance Administrator and City Attorney Frank Wichmann.

MINUTES - M/S, Suedkamp-Dunhoft, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 21 2004, be approved. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mayor Otto stated Legislation is being moved up tonight to address Council Committees.

LEGISLATION - Mr. Wichmann read Municipal Order Number 1-4-2005-1 establishing Committees and membership thereof; and authorizing the referral thereto for the recommendation thereof, of any subject presented to the City Council for their consideration.

M/S, Burke-Burger, to adopt and allow the Mayor to sign Municipal Order Number 1-4-2005-1 establishing Committees and membership thereof. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - There were no special presentations this evening.

Mayor Otto said the structure of Council Committees is changing into three main Committees. Instead of two Council Members on each Committee there now will be four Council Members on each Committee. The three main Committees are:

- Administration Committee - with Mr. Burger Chairperson, Mr. Burke Ms. Kyle, and Mr. Howard. The Administration Committee will cover Administration, Finance, Community Development, Information Systems, Legislative Issues, Alcohol Beverage Control, Beautification, and Community Education.
- Public Safety Committee - with Mr. Hahn as Chairperson, Ms. Suedkamp, Mr. Dunhoft, and Mr. Blankenship. The Public Safety Committee will cover Police, Fire/EMS, and Dispatch.
- Public Service Committee - with Mr. Rose as Chairperson, Mr. Henry, Mr. Hammond and Mr. Sandel. The Public Service Committee will cover Public Works, Codes, Commerce-Economic Development, Business Council, Environmental Issues, Future Land/Facilities, and Telecommunications.

In addition Mayor Otto announced the Council Members who will be representing the City to relation organizations.

Kentucky League of Cities - Mayor Otto and Kevin Burke

Municipal Government League of Northern Kentucky - Brian Hammond and Greg Sandel

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments - Keith Henry

Erlanger Housing Development Corporation - John Dunhoft and Jim Viox

Erlanger-Elsmere Renaissance - Patty Suedkamp

Erlanger Historical Society - Paul Hahn and Kevin Burke

Kenton County Mayors Group - Paul Hahn, Jim Burger, Brian Hammond and Bill Scheyer

Chamber of Commerce - Mayor Otto, Frank Rose, Jim Burger, Brian Hammond, Bill Scheyer, Dave Hahn and Linda Carter

Mayor Otto said representatives that will be making reports to Council should first get in touch with Linda Carter to be put on the agenda.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration - Mr. Burger said that he had no report but Finance Administrator Jerry Knochelmann, has a report at this time. Mr. Knochelmann said the auditor will be at the next Council meeting to give their report. Council members have been given the auditors report to review ahead of time so that they can ask the auditor any questions. Mr. Knochelmann also stated a copy of the 2004-2005 budget is included in the Council Information Update packets they have been given. He said \$300,000 of the City's reserves had been included in the budget but that only \$172,000 had been used. This should be credited to the department heads doing an excellent job keeping spending down. Mr. Knochelmann said he is expecting a good financial year and feels that it might be possible to add to the reserves. Mr. Knochelmann further said the Advance Life Support (ALS) Service that began January 1, 2005 is doing fine and that the expense is being offset by revenues.

Mr. Burger asked that the Administration Committee meet next Tuesday to hear and report about new and ongoing issues.

Mr. Burger said that Kathy Cahill Community Development Coordinator had a report tonight. Kathy asked that citizens and businesses continue to support our Marine Battalion by getting a list of the things they need at the City Building. Kathy stated that to get the New Year off to a good start "Get Fit Clinics" are starting January 12, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library. This is co-sponsored by the Cities of Erlanger and Edgewood, the Library and the Kenton County Cooperative Extension.

The City of Erlanger and the Library are sponsoring two February events also being held at the Library:

1. Singles Night - Music Jeopardy February 11, 2005 from 6 to 9 P.M.
2. Children's Valentine Party on February 13, 2005 from 2 to 4 P.M.

Kathy Cahill announced the City Council Scholarship applications are now available at the City Building and at the local high schools. Completed applications must be returned by 4:30 P.M. on March 18, 2005.

Mayor Otto announced that Administrative Assistant Sandra Schweikert will be taking notes at Council meetings.

Public Safety - Mr. Hahn stated that reports from Fire/EMS will be by Ms. Suedkamp and Mr. Blankenship; reports from the Police Department will be made by Mr. Dunhoft and Mr. Hahn.

Ms. Suedkamp said that the Erlanger Fire Marshall had requested Council look into an ordinance that requires City businesses to

have Knox Boxes installed on their buildings to save time in the event of a fire. Two hundred Knox Boxes have already been installed throughout the City. Response by business owners shows 4 out of 5 opposing this ordinance. Ms. Suedkamp said Knox Boxes have been researched and been proven invaluable. They are used all over the country. Ms Suedkamp said that due to the poor response by business owners at this time, the proposed ordinance should be taken off the agenda.

M/S, Suedkamp-Blankenship, to remove the reading of the Knox Box Requirement ordinance from the agenda. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mr. Burger suggested that additional information to the business community may change negative opinion about Knox Boxes. Mayor Otto said he will follow-up with a letter from Chief Koenig and himself.

Mr. Blankenship announced Chief Koenig has recently been elected as second Vice President of the Kentucky Fire Chief's Association.

Mr. Dunhoft read a letter from the Campbell County Water Rescue asking for the donation of a retired Police cruiser as theirs encountered several mechanical issues and the organization was forced to retire the vehicle.

M/S, Dunhoft-Hahn, to donate a retired Police cruiser to the Campbell County Water Rescue organization when one becomes available. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mr. Dunhoft read a letter from Jim Liles, Director of the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force commending one of our Police officers who had participated as a Drug Enforcement Agent and who has left the unit. This officer served over two years, not only as an Agent but also as a Supervisor and Training Coordinator. Director Liles praised our Police officer for his professionalism, high standards and leadership skills and stated he is looked- up to by Federal, State and Local agencies for his knowledge and expertise.

Chief Tim Koenig reported the Advance Life Support (ALS) service is going great. He said they have been very busy. As of date, we have had 22 ALS responses, 21 Basic Life Support (BLS) responses, and 17 fire responses since 12:00 A.M. January 1, 2005.

Public Service - Mr. Rose commended the Public Works Department for their hard work and dedication to the City during and after the recent snowstorm. The City has 117 street miles that we have maintained in the past. Kenton County is no longer maintaining county roads that are in City limits so there are an additional 10 miles of roads our Public Works are now maintaining. The snow and ice were responsible for numerous breakdowns to the plows, their blades, hydraulics, tires and exhaust systems. Public Works worked 56 hours straight. Job well done.

Mr. Henry reported Christmas tree pickup is underway and will continue next week. Citizens may also drop off their trees at the Public Works Department.

Mr. Rose stated the Public Service Committee would like to meet next Tuesday to organize and hear reports.

Mayor Otto encouraged all Committees to meet January 11, 2005.

Mayor Otto asked Dave Hahn to report on the costs and effects of the recent snow and ice storm. Dave Hahn stated this storm was very unusual for our area and very hard to fight. It started as rain that turned to ice, then snow, then ice again. The Public Works Crew worked from Wednesday morning through noon Friday and had to

quit due to many breakages and breakdowns of equipment. Additional backhoes were rented and equipment replaced or repaired. Cul-de-sacs were our biggest complaint area. The crews encountered cars in about 90 percent of all cul-de-sacs. We followed the procedures Council had discussed after last winter, and by the first shift rotation 100 percent of all streets, including cul-de-sacs, were treated. Catch basins in low-lying areas also had to be cleared to prevent resident's homes from flooding. Mr. Hahn stated he felt the Public Works Department performed as well as they could, considering the conditions and resources.

Ms. Suedkamp passed along compliments she had received from people she had talked to who had driven in other parts of Northern Kentucky. They were very impressed with our Public Works Department.

Mr. Burger asked what has Mr. Hahn and Rick Bogard learned from this experience. Mr. Hahn and the Public Works Department now knows the roads and streets the County had been maintaining, that we are now responsible for. Rick Bogard and Linda Carter are contacting other cities in Kentucky to ask their policy on clearing cul-de-sacs.

Ms. Kyle stated she had received positive comments from residents that had traveled to other nearby cities. All thought our Public Works had done a wonderful job. She asked residents to be patient.

Mr. Dunhoft said the Public Works Committee had met and discussed the clearing of cul-de-sacs for 2 hours last summer. We then tried to get residents informed of the City's policy with various articles in the Dixie News and Erlanger Recorder.

Dave Hahn reported there is a glitch in the Zoning Text. We need to apply for a text amendment to allow more than one principle building to a lot in Commercial and Industrial zones.

M/S, Rose-Hahn to apply for a text amendment to allow more than one principle building to a lot in Commercial and Industrial zones. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

M/S, Kyle-Henry, to accept the reports of the standing committees. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OPERATIONS

City Engineer - No report

City Attorney - No report

City Administrator - No report

M/S, Kyle-Rose, that the reports of the City Operations be adopted as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - No correspondence.

CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - Michele Stoy, 1622 Bullock Pen Road stated she has lived at this address for the last 10 years. She is a taxpayer and is concerned by the lack of services the City is providing. Kenton County previously plowed her road. When she calls Erlanger dispatch for Police or Fire/EMS help, she is told to call Kenton County. Kenton County tells her to call Erlanger. The same thing happened when she called Kenton County after the snowstorm, she was informed Erlanger is now responsible. Erlanger Dispatch told her it wasn't the City's responsibility, to call County. Mayor Otto stated it obviously was a mistake on

our part and asked her to speak with Chief Fields, Chief Koenig, and Dave Hahn after the meeting.

David Wolfzorn, 104 Country Road stated his cul-de-sac didn't get cleared for 1 week. He asked if we have adequate resources to get the job done? He stated the main roads were great, but the side roads were bad. Mayor Otto said his comments were duly noted. We are re-evaluating our policy and procedures.

Paul Gronefeld, 12 Lexington Drive, stated his cul-de-sac was not cleared at all. He said there has never been any problem in the past. His cul-de-sac could have been plowed even though there were cars in it. We should use smaller vehicles. Mr. Gronefeld said the City gave no warning as to their street plowing policies.

Mr. Burger said Dave Hahn and staff members are looking at this issue.

Ms. Suedkamp asked if neighbors could be more pro-active and get their neighbors to get their cars off the street.

Mr. Dunhoft stated there were 2 articles in the December 16, 2004 Dixie News regarding the City's Snow Policies and procedures.

BIDS - No bids.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS - Mayor Otto said we have had several requests that need to be assigned to Committee.

- A request for more strenuous codes enforcement is assigned to the Public Service Committee.
- A request regarding the cleaning and dressing of deer is assigned to the Public Safety Committee.
- Zoning issues to be assigned to the Public Service Committee.

Mayor Otto stated Council will need to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Howard said the Dixie News has closed after forty-two years of business and he would like the City to recognize them in some way. Mayor Otto thanked Mr. Howard for bringing this up and said we would be doing something special to recognize Lee Thomas and the Dixie News in the near future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - There were no announcements.

Mayor Otto said if there is no further business then we need a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

M/S, Rose-Hahn, to go into Executive Session at 8:03 P.M. to discuss personnel pursuant to K.R.S. 61.810(c). All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Council moved into Executive Session.

M/S, Rose-Kyle, to go back to Regular Session at 8:09 P.M. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

M/S, Rose-Blankenship, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

APPROVED:

Marc T. Otto, Sr.
Mayor

Sandra Schweikert
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

Linda Carter
City Clerk