

MEETING
ERLANGER COUNCIL
February 7, 2006

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, February 7, 2006.

Reverend Charles Martin of the Erlanger Christian Church, 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, Keith Henry, Bill Howard, Vicki Kyle, Frank Rose, Greg Sandel, and Patty Suedkamp. Brian Hammond was absent, absence excused.

Also present were: City Administrator Bill Scheyer, Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig, City Clerk Linda Carter, Finance Officer Jerry Knochelmann, Police Captain Tim Thames, Assistant Fire/EMS Chief Terry Allen, City Attorney Frank Wichmann, and City Engineer Jim Viox.

MINUTES - M/S, Burger-Blankenship, that the minutes of the Regular meeting held on January 3, 2006, be approved. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

M/S, Suedkamp-Burke, that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on January 17, 2006, be approved. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Mayor Otto introduced Police Department Captain Thames. Captain Thames introduced Tyra Lainhart. She is an integral member of our Communication Center. Mayor Otto presented Tyra with a five year service pin and thanked her for her service to our Community.

Next, Captain Thames introduced Sergeant Greg Pohlman. Captain Thames stated Sergeant Pohlman is our senior most Patrol Sergeant. He has been with the Erlanger Police Department for 15 years. Mayor Otto presented Greg with a 15 year service pin and thanked him for his service to our City.

Mayor Otto introduced City Administrator Bill Scheyer. Mr. Scheyer stated he is proud to introduce Ralph Sydnor of the Building and Codes Department. Ralph is a great member of our team. He will do anything to keep things going smoothly. Mayor Otto congratulated Ralph and presented him with a five year service pin.

Mayor Otto introduced Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig. Chief Koenig introduced Teresa Garrison. Teresa works as a part-time firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for Erlanger and full time EMT with TransCare. She is an outstanding member of our team. Mayor Otto presented Teresa with a five year service award pin and thanked her for her service to our City.

Chief Koenig introduced Joe Barrett. Joe is an outstanding firefighter. He started as an Explorer and is now a volunteer who fills in whenever needed. Mayor Otto congratulated Joe and presented him with a 10 year service award pin.

Chief Koenig introduced Matt Allen. Matt was a member of the Explorers from 1996 thru 2001. As an Explorer was named Explorer of the Year in 1999. Matt runs numerous shifts as a volunteer firefighter and works full time in the Police Department Communications Center. Mayor Otto presented Matt with a ten year service award pin and thanked him for his service to the City.

Chief Koenig introduced Volunteer Chief Jack Scheben. Chief Koenig stated Jack started his career as a firefighter 60 years ago at the age of 16. He has served in every capacity within the

department. He was Chief from 1976 thru 1988. He has received numerous awards over the years. He is most known for his award of Volunteer Firefighter of the Year for the Nation. His degree in chemistry has kept him busy with the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Regional Team (GCHMRT). Jack is still active today with numerous firefighter and hazardous material (HAZMAT) organizations.

Mayor Otto congratulated Jack and presented him a 60 year service pin. Mayor Otto stated Jack and the Scheben family helped to mold the fire department and the community. Mayor Otto then read a proclamation proclaiming February 7, 2006 as being "Jack Scheben Day" in the City of Erlanger. Council and the audience gave Jack a standing ovation.

Mayor Otto said we have a surprise presentation this evening. Frank Wichmann is a life long resident of Erlanger. His father, Frank Wichmann I was the Mayor of the City from 1948 to 1949. Frank II began his association with City government as a City Prosecutor in 1965. He held this position for three terms. In 1974 he became the City Attorney, a position he still holds today. Frank and the Wichmann family have played an integral part in the formation of the City. Mayor Otto presented Frank with a 40 year service pin. He then read a proclamation making February 7, 2006 Frank Wichmann Day in the City of Erlanger. Council and the audience gave Frank a standing ovation.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration - Mr. Burger stated the Lakemont Park Advisory Committee will meet February 28, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. The playground equipment for the park has been purchased and delivered. A special thanks goes out to the folks at Builders First Choice for their help unloading the equipment on the day it arrived.

Mr. Burger reported Cinergy will be completing a pole relocation project in the Lakemont Park area that will provide a savings to the project because of reduced grading costs that the City will incur during the park development.

Ms. Kyle said applications for the Friendship City Scholarship along with letters of recommendation and community service hours must be turned in no later than 4:30 P.M., on March 17, 2006. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating high school student. You must be a resident of Erlanger to apply.

Mr. Howard said the February Valentine party will be held on February 12, 2005 at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Public Safety - Mr. Dunhoft reported progress on the street light and ATV reviews. The Committee should have a report for the March Council meeting.

Mr. Dunhoft read the changes the Committee suggests need to be made to the Parking Regulations. The report is attached to the back of the minutes.

M/S, Dunhoft-Hahn to read the Executive Order adopting the changes read in the report. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mr. Dunhoff read a letter to Chief Fields from Edgewood Police Chief Anthony Kramer thanking the Department for assistance provided by K-9 Officer Dave Lillich and Sombie during an incident involving drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Dunhoff read a letter to Sergeant Mike Lemming from Kyle Cunha apologizing for fleeing after Sergeant Lemming tried to pull his vehicle over. Kyle thanked Sergeant Lemming for his tolerance of his behavior.

Ms. Suedkamp reported Fire/EMS Captain Bruce Smith has been appointed the President of the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association.

Ms. Suedkamp stated the Fire/EMS Department has responded to 421 runs to date.

Ms. Suedkamp said the Fire/EMS Burn Permit was revised to be clearer for applicants and to update to current codes.

Ms. Suedkamp reported a statewide Earthquake Preparedness Drill was conducted this morning at 10:07 A.M. from the State Emergency Communications Center and the National Weather Service Weather Alert System.

Mr. Blankenship stated the Fire/EMS Department is hosting the Officers Training Class at Firehouse Station 1. There are a total of 47 students enrolled.

Mr. Blankenship reported the Fire/EMS Department did not receive the Fire Safer Grant to hire two additional firefighters.

Mr. Blankenship announced we will host a Basic Search and Rescue Class for fire, EMS, Police or EMA agencies.

Mr. Hahn asked if the parking at the residential end of Crescent Avenue could be checked out for 18 wheel trucks. Mayor Otto asked Captain Thames to handle this.

Chief Koenig introduced two members of the Technical Rescue Team (TRT), Melissa Newman, and her search dog Gunner and Assistant Chief Terry Allen and his search dog L.J. They are members of the Kentucky Search Dog Association that have responded to hundreds of searches all across Kentucky. These dogs are specially trained to search for lost persons and cadavers. Melissa and Assistant Chief Allen and their dogs demonstrated the dogs' abilities by finding hidden items in the Council Chambers.

Public Service - Frank Rose reported the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission made a presentation on the Comprehensive plan for State Route 17 at the January 17, 2006 Committee meeting.

M/S, Dunhoff-Suedkamp, to accept the Reports of the Standing Committees as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Erlanger-Elsmere Renaissance - Ms. Suedkamp said a Grant Request has been submitted to Renaissance on Main for funds to remove overhead electrical wires crossing Dixie Highway in the Dixie Renaissance District. She said they are also submitting an application for the 2006 Round of TEA-21 funding for a streetscape project.

Ms. Suedkamp reported the Renaissance Board is in the final stages of making their second loan for façade improvements.

Ms. Suedkamp stated a new service for the businesses in the Dixie Renaissance District has been started on the web site. Banner ads are now running on the web site for these businesses.

The Farmer's Market has received its "Kentucky Proud" certification from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture making us eligible for their grant programs again this year.

Ms. Suedkamp reported the Advisory Board Officers for 2006 are: Chairperson - Patty Suedkamp, and Vice Chairperson - Colleen Turman.

Erlanger Historical Society - Mr. Hahn stated March is National Women's History Month. The Erlanger Historical Society will be creating displays in cases at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library to honor Erlanger women. "Rosie the Riveter" will be at the Library on March 4, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. The Historical Society is co-sponsoring this event and will be displaying World War II memorabilia.

Mr. Hahn stated it's time to pay the Historical Society membership dues for 2006. We have a membership of about 120 to date.

M/S, Kyle-Henry, that the Reports of Representatives be adopted as presented. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OPERATIONS

City Engineer - No report.

City Attorney - Mr. Wichmann said he was very surprised by the proclamation. He said he enjoys his work and he thanked everyone for the honor.

City Administrator - Mr. Scheyer reported that efforts had been made to obtain a grant from the state to fund repairs to Old Erlanger Road. We have not been awarded the grant.

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

CORRESPONDENCE - A letter of gratitude from Lieutenant Colonel T.F. Qualls and the Marines and Sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Kathy Cahill for organizing contributions made to "Operation Goodwill Hunting". This project included distribution of donations to a school in Djibouti, Africa and an orphanage in Rhodes, Greece.

CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - Ms. Joyce Graves, of 518 Hallam Avenue stated that on January 28, 2006 she received a violation letter from the Erlanger Codes Department due to a decorative fence in her front yard. The decorative fence was only on the front two corners of her property and she wanted to plant a cottage garden next to these corner fences. Ms. Graves stated she doesn't understand why there is an ordinance against this; it would be an improvement to the property and the neighborhood.

Mr. Bill Scheyer said the Zoning Code was developed by the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission. It was adopted by Council and can be modified by Council. He said the Code exists to protect owners' property; a permit is required and plans are reviewed; we need to be consistent with zoning regulations. Ms. Graves should make a request to Council to review the fence regulations of the Zoning Code.

Ms. Graves asked Council to review the Fence Regulations of the Zoning Code.

Mayor Otto assigned the request to the Administration Committee and asked Mr. Burger to Chair.

Mr. Marcus Carey of 3814 Dixie Highway wanted to introduce himself. He stated this is his 50th year as a resident of Erlanger; Erlanger is his hometown. He announced that he has filed papers to run for the position of judge on the Kentucky Supreme Court. Mr. Carey expressed his sincere appreciation for the opportunity to be able to introduce himself to Mayor Otto and Council and he asked for the support of the citizens of Erlanger.

BIDS - No Bids

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Mayor Otto gave the State of the City Address. (This document is found attached to the back of the minutes.) Afterward Council and the audience applauded the Mayor.

Mr. Burger said he would meet with Ms. Graves at the February 28, 2006 Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS - Mayor Otto stated he has received a request from the Kroger Company to change the Alcoholic Beverage Control ordinance to allow bottled liquor to be sold on Sunday. Mayor Otto assigned the request to the Public Service Committee. Frank Rose asked that the Committee meet February 21, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

LEGISLATION - Mr. Wichmann read Resolution # 02-07-06-01 adopting the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

M/S, Dunhoft-Burger, to adopt and allow the Mayor to sign Resolution # 02-07-06-01 adopting the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mr. Wichmann read Executive Order Number 2006-02 providing for the orderly continuation of the functions of City Government whenever the Mayor is unable to attend the duties of office.

M/S, Rose-Kyle, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 P.M. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

APPROVED:

Marc T. Otto, Sr.
Mayor

Sandra Schweikert
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

Linda Carter
City Clerk