

MEETING  
ERLANGER COUNCIL  
May 17, 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, May 17, 2005.

Reverend Wes Shoemaker, Erlanger First Church of the Nazarene, 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, Police Chief Marc Fields, Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig, Codes Administrator Dave Hahn, City Clerk Linda Carter, Information Systems Administrator Becky Hopkins, City Attorney Frank Wichmann, City Engineer Jim Viox, and Police Captains Bob Arens and Tim Thames.

MINUTES - M/S, Suedkamp-Dunhoft, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 3, 2005, be approved. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS- Mayor Otto invited Council member Vickie Kyle to join him at the podium to present the Erlanger Friendship City Scholarship. Ms. Kyle stated this is the third year that Council has presented an Erlanger high school graduating senior with the City's \$1,500 scholarship. Various members of the community judge the applications. A student's grade point average is considered, but the scholarship is awarded to the student who serves the community with their time and efforts. Mayor Otto introduced the winner of this year's scholarship, Kera Cooper. Kera is the first student from Lloyd Memorial High School to be awarded the scholarship. Mayor Otto congratulated Kera and wished her the best of luck. Kera thanked the Mayor and Council for this honor.

Mayor Otto stated the second presentation tonight goes to the 2004-2005 Dixie High School Varsity Cheerleaders also known as the "Dixie Chix". The team is this year's winner of the AmeriCheer International Cheerleading Competition and the school's first national title. Mayor Otto read a proclamation designating May 17, 2005 as "Dixie Chix Day" in the City of Erlanger. Police Captain Thames introduced the team members and Mayor Otto presented each girl with her own individual proclamation. The coach and members of the cheerleading squad are as follows: Coach Mickey Hill, Jessie Aker, Rachel Alig, Heather Barhorst, Brittany Botkin, Kenda Conley, Jessica Hardy, Meaghan Huffman, Katie Lehman, Chelsea Mauck, Meagan Matthews, Nikki Mathews, Erin Miller, Amber Morris, Sam Moyer, Cassie Palmer, Ashley Simmons, Holly Stanck, Amanda Thames, Hannah Waddell, and Cameron Yates.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration - Mr. Burger asked the Committee to meet June 14, 2005, at 6:30 P.M. to discuss Council procedures. He will give Council the information to look over beforehand.

Mr. Burger reminded everyone of the upcoming Memorial Day Parade, May 30, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. If any Council members are interested in participating, please notify Kathy Cahill by noon, May 24, 2005.

Mr. Howard wanted to thank the local businesses for their generosity by supplying materials, money and time to help repair the home of one of our elderly residents. Those businesses include: Rumpke for donating a free dumpster, R & D Decorating for painting the house, Mueller Roofing donated the roof shingles, B.T. Spence for installing the roof, Hellman Lumber donated an exterior door,

Corken Steel donated metal for the roof valley, Boone Kenton Lumber donated lumber, Fairway Exteriors flashed the chimneys, and Peggy Kramer for writing such a great article for the Kentucky Post. Also, cash donations were made by Classic Car Wash, Toeppen Construction, and Quinn Electric.

Public Safety - Mr. Dunhoft stated the Committee will be interviewing Police Department candidates May 24, 2005 at 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Suedkamp reported the Fire Department is starting to test the fire hydrants. Call the Northern Kentucky Water District if you should happen to get rust in your laundry. They have a product to take care of the problem.

Ms. Suedkamp reported two additional businesses in the City have installed knox boxes.

Ms. Suedkamp said there was a total of 98 Advance Life Support (ALS) runs in April.

Public Service - Mr. Rose stated he had no report.

Mr. Howard said he has questions regarding the proposed ordinance regarding fee changes for building and zoning permits. Mayor Otto said Council will discuss this later on in the meeting.

M/S, Burke-Kyle, to accept the Reports of the Standing Committees. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

#### REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Renaissance - Ms. Suedkamp said Mr. Bob Yoder has a report tonight.

Mr. Yoder stated that last year was the first year the Erlanger-Elsmere Renaissance Advisory Board presented awards to two "Dixie Renaissance" businesses that participated in the Beautification Contest. This year's first award goes to the Huesing Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Huesing could not be here to accept his plaque. The second award is not going to a business. Mr. Yoder presented the second award to the City of Erlanger Public Works Department. They have gone to great lengths to make the Dixie Renaissance area look beautiful. Mr. Yoder presented the plaque to David Hahn, Codes Administrator and Superintendent of Public Works.

Mr. Yoder said he is working on two new links for the website. The first is "Thirty Things to do in Thirty Minutes on "The Dixie", and the "Erlanger/Elsmere Renaissance Dixie Beautification Grant Program".

Mr. Yoder said he is discussing ways to market The Dixie with two university classes as their class projects.

Mr. Yoder reported the Farmer's Market is going well. He wanted to thank the Erlanger Baptist Church for the use of their parking lot and the Renaissance Advisory Board for their support.

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

#### REPORTS OF CITY OPERATIONS

City Engineer - Mr. Jim Viox reported work is again being done on City streets by Cinergy sub-contractors. This year we are requiring Cinergy to pave the whole side of the street they are working on. Michaels and Sons have been contracted by Cinergy to

do this paving. We are also contracting Michaels to pave the other side of the same street at this time. We will be saving the City money in the long run by paving both sides now. Next year's paving funds are being used to pay for this.

City Attorney - No report.

City Administrator - No report.

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

CORRESPONDENCE - No correspondence.

CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - No citizens wished to address Council.

BIDS - There were no bids at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Mayor Otto reported that he had received questions on only a few items on the budget and would like to discuss them at this time.

1. Renaissance Budget - Ms. Suedkamp said she thinks the cut in the amount budgeted for the Erlanger-Elsmere Renaissance project from \$50,000 to \$35,000 is too big of a cut. Mr. Scheyer stated the Staff recommended \$35,000 but making it \$40,000 may be a better figure that can be amended at a later time if needed.
2. Building and Zoning Permit Fees - Mr. Burger said the proposed hike in fees for builders is fine but the hike to residents making improvements is way too high. He said he thought more residents would make improvements without getting a permit at all. We will have more projects not meeting the code requirements.

Mr. Dunhoft stated he didn't like raising fees but the fees have been behind for years. We should go ahead and raise them to be consistent with those being charged by the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission (NKAPC).

Ms. Suedkamp said she hated to see the resident's fees being raised but when Council discussed the proposed "One Stop Shop" being offered by the NKAPC, we agreed raising the fees is what was best in order to keep the City's own Building and Codes Department.

Mr. Hahn stated it is wrong to get out of step with other local cities. Council included these fees in the budget. NKAPC was way behind in their fee structure and recently reevaluated it to reflect the actual costs involved. This is what is going to be charged to the fourteen cities that are going with the "One Stop Shop"

Mr. Howard said he has no objection to raising fees, but these new rates were unreasonable. Residents will avoid paying these fees by not getting the required permits.

Dave Hahn said we have residents who do not get permits now. He said the Public Works, Police, Fire and Codes departments are catching and reporting those who are avoiding the permits now.

Mayor Otto stated we do have a difference in opinion. This does affect the proposed budget. He asked if there were any objections to the first reading of the ordinance tonight. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS - Mr. Bill Scheyer addressed the tax modernization bill and one of its impacts on local government. The tax modernization bill will eliminate the franchises paid by cable and telecommunications companies to local governments. However this revenue will be replaced by a new tax that will be collected by the state. By December 1, 2005 each local taxing jurisdiction must certify to the Revenue Department the amount of collections between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. If a city does not collect franchise fees from these companies or does not collect the maximum rate of 5 percent, they have until June 30, 2005 to enact an ordinance either imposing a new franchise fee or raising an existing franchise fee to the maximum allowable. The fund that the state will pass on to local governments is based upon collections of the franchise fees. Any raise in these franchise taxes will be passed on to the residents. After discussion Mr. Burger suggested that the small amount of revenue this fee may generate for the City was not worth adding additional taxes on our residents. He suggested that this issue be tabled. Mayor Otto concurred. Council had no objections.

LEGISLATION - Mr. Wichmann read Ordinance Number 2258 providing for the installation and maintenance of streetlights in the City; and providing penalties for the violation thereof. This was the second reading.

M/S, Henry-Rose, to adopt and allow the Mayor to sign Ordinance Number 2258 providing for the installation and maintenance of streetlights in the City; and providing for the violation thereof. Roll call vote, all ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mr. Wichmann read an ordinance establishing fees for zoning, building and other permits required by other City ordinances. This was the first reading.

Mr. Wichmann read an ordinance adopting a budget for the City of Erlanger pursuant to K.R.S. 91A.030 (10) for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2005, and providing that no monies shall be expanded by or on behalf of the City of Erlanger except in accordance therewith. This was the first reading.

M/S, Rose-Suedkamp, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 P.M. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

APPROVED:

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Marc T. Otto, Sr.  
Mayor

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Sandra Schweikert  
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

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Linda Carter  
City Clerk