

REGULAR MEETING
ERLANGER COUNCIL
June 5, 2007

Mayor Thomas L. Rouse called the regular meeting of the Erlanger City Council to order in the City of Erlanger Council Chambers at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

Members of Council and citizens pledged allegiance to the flag.

The following Members of Council were present: Jim Burger, Kevin Burke, Tom Cahill, John Dunhoft, Paul Hahn, Keith Henry, Bill Howard, Vicki Kyle, Corine Pitts, Greg Sandel, Renee Skidmore, and Patty Suedkamp.

Also present were: City Administrator Bill Scheyer, Police Chief Marc Fields, Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig, City Clerk Linda Carter, Finance Officer Jerry Knochelmann, Economic Development Director Dave Hahn, Public Works Director Rick Bogard, Captain Tim Thames, City Engineer Jim Viox, and City Attorney Frank Wichmann

MINUTES - M/S, Suedkamp-Kyle, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 8, 2007, be approved as read. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Mayor Rouse asked Council member Patty Suedkamp and Fire/EMS Chief Tim Koenig to assist him with the presentation for Tony Scheben. Chief Koenig stated the Scheben family has had a long history in Erlanger and in the Erlanger Fire Department. Chief Koenig introduced Tony Scheben, who has served the City of Erlanger for the last 25 years. He started off as an Explorer, at the age of 15 and has reached the rank of lieutenant. Tony is a part-time paramedic for Erlanger at this time and works full time for the Hebron Fire/EMS Department. Ms. Suedkamp presented Tony with a 25 year service award. Mayor Rouse congratulated him and thanked him for his service to the community.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Rouse stated there are several issues, the Silverlake proposition and Dispatch, that are keeping himself, Council, Administration and staff very busy. He said he wanted to report progress on both.

Mayor Rouse said he participated in the Memorial Day parade. He rode his golf cart the whole parade route. Mayor Rouse said many residents of Erlanger and Elsmere participated and many others came to watch. This is a day that unites both cities for a common purpose. He said he hoped we can unite in other endeavors in the future.

Mayor Rouse said the budget ordinance is set for its second reading tonight. It is the product of an abundance of hard work by the Administration and Council. He said he is not happy with the lack of funds, but he is proud of this budget because it squeezes the most bangs out of the buck. Notably, we were able to retain the home fleet concept for our police cruisers, which extends the life of the vehicles and spreads out the replacement costs. We are able to hire five new full-time firefighters. This is vital to the stability of our fire/EMS department and to the insurance ratings for all of our property owners. We are able to treat our employees fairly with regard to salary and benefits. All departments of this administration were kept intact and functioning. Erlanger will remain, at least for another year, on solid financial ground.

Mayor Rouse said there are several issues that we are concerned with. For instance, the City was required to contribute an

additional \$250,000 to the state retirement funds - that's on top of last year's payment. We had to pass on several worthy projects and needed purchases due to lack of funds. Budgeting is a never-ending balancing act, balancing the basic needs of our residents within our means.

There has been some talk amongst some groups that want to challenge the ability of Kentucky cities and counties to receive an annual 4 percent increase in real estate taxes. Mayor Rouse further stated there is a segment of Northern Kentucky's business community that thinks cities should fail so county governments could provide needed services. Imagine the Kenton County Fiscal Court fixing a pothole on Jacqueline Drive or even policing our city.

The Mayor said people choose to live in cities for many different reasons: Intensive local police service, local, responsive fire and EMS/ALS services; immediate attention to infrastructure issues; or a sense of community. Maybe it is time to re-educate citizens and state leaders on the value of municipal government.

Mayor Rouse concluded that he hoped the administration and elected leaders of the City of Erlanger can continue to provide the quantity and level of services our citizens deserve and expect. It is not easy, nor is it inexpensive.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Safety - Police - Mr. Dunhoft read a letter from the Florence Police Department offering commendation and appreciation to two Erlanger Police officers, Mike Leming and Jason Whaley. These officers helped to apprehend suspects and recover money after a robbery at the Walgreens on Mall Road on May 13, 2007.

Mr. Sandel read a letter on behalf of the teachers and staff and from Jack Moreland, Superintendent of the Covington Board of Education. Erlanger Police officers participated in a canine search on May 16, 2007. Mr. The officers conducted themselves in a polished and professional manner.

Public Safety - Fire/EMS - Ms. Pitts read a letter from the family of the late J.T. Gilreath thanking the Erlanger Fire/EMS and Police departments for the many times they responded to his home. He was always handled with great care and dignity. His family is most grateful.

Ms. Pitts read a letter on behalf of Chief Wendt and the membership of Crescent Springs/Villa Hills Fire and EMS Department. They expressed their appreciation for Erlanger Fire/EMS participation in the funeral detail of Chief Petty Officer Gregory Billiter.

Ms. Suedkamp read a letter from Dan Hitzfield, Assistant Chief of the Hebron Fire Protection District. Assistant Chief Hitzfield and the Fire Officer Development Committee expressed their thanks for the use of our facilities for the Fire Department Officer Development Class and for hosting graduation.

Ms. Suedkamp reported the Erlanger Fire/EMS Department has been awarded an Exercise Equipment Grant from the Health and Wellness Committee for a Z7 True Treadmill.

Ms. Suedkamp read the June 2007 reports for Advance Life Support (ALS) and Mutual Aid runs.

- Mutual Aid Runs for June 2007: Bromley - 3 dispatches, 0 completed; Florence - 1 dispatch, 0 completed; Ft. Mitchell - 8 dispatches, 3 - ALS; Ft. Wright - 2 dispatches, 1 ALS; Ludlow - 4 dispatches, 1 ALS with a total of 18 dispatches, 5 completed calls.
- ALS Statistics for June 2007: Erlanger - 52; Elsmere - 35 ; Point Pleasant - 9; Crescent Springs -21; Edgewood - 13; Fort Mitchell - 2; Fort Wright - 1; Ludlow - 1 Total - 134 total runs.

Chief Koenig said last month he reported the progress to repair rescue truck number 74 that had caught on fire after an emergency run. The truck has been painted and fixed and is now waiting on electrical parts coming from Mexico.

Chief Koenig stated the department will be finishing the water hydrant testing in a day or two.

Chief Koenig reported the department advertised in-house for five full time Fire/EMS/Paramedic positions. He received 19 applications.

Public Works - Mr. Hahn reported the Public Works Department is working all over the City. They are doing their usual fine job.

David Hahn said he would like to follow-up on the Silverlake presentation. In order to proceed, we need Council's authorization to send Mark Stewart to file for a text amendment. This was made in the form of a motion.

Mayor Rouse stated a lot of things were presented to you. This does not mean that we approve any part of Silverlake's plan. It just changes the zoning to get the project started if approved. We will have discussions about the presentation.

M/S, Dunhoft-Kyle, to file for a text amendment. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Administration - Mr. Burger stated the Committee had a meeting about building permits. We are looking at better enforcement. Defining "completion", stiffer fines, and looking at financial situations first before issuing the permits are some of our issues. Mr. Wichmann is working on this.

Ms. Carter said the Administration Department sent out over 250 letters informing residents of delinquent Bavarian bills. Around 58 letters were returned by the Post Office. It seems there are cases of home sales, new residents, vacant homes and residents not receiving bills at all. Ms. Carter said this has been a rough process but it is all settling down.

Ms. Kyle reported the Erlanger Parks and Recreation Summer Program starts on June 11, 2007. The summer program lasts six weeks and park activity schedules may be picked up at the Municipal Building.

Finance - Mr. Henry reported the committee met May 22, 2007 to discuss the budget.

Mr. Henry reported that for the 6th consecutive year, the City has received the Achievement in Financial Reporting award.

Connect Erlanger - Ms. Skidmore gave a report on her research concerning recycling. She said that since Erlanger has Bavarian doing all their billing themselves, they will only do recycling on an individual basis costing each residence \$5.00 per month. On a city-wide basis, it would cost \$3.50 per residence per month. At present we have free recycling bins in 9 locations: Bethany Luthern Church, Saint Henry High School, Saint Henry Elementary School, Mary Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Library, Circleport, Dixie High School, Tichenor Middle School, and Steinkamp Molding on Turfway Road. The Committee has decided it would not be beneficial on a city wide basis. The committee does not recommend going city wide.

Mayor Rouse stated recycling is not going to go away. The City will constantly be looking at this issue.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Revenue Generation - Mr. Cahill reported the committee met this afternoon to discuss how we can start rental property inspections with our staff.

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

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Erlanger/Elsmere Renaissance - Ms. Suedkamp said Dave Hahn received a letter from the Kentucky Main Street program congratulating the Erlanger-Elsmere Renaissance Committee that they have been certified for 2007.

Municipal Government League - Ms. Pitts reported she and Finance Officer Jerry Knochelmann, attended a meeting of the Municipal Government League on May 17, 2007. Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Grants were discussed. Ms. Pitts said she has the contact information if we want to pursue something like this in the future.

Ms. Pitts reported Ft. Wright City Administrator Larry Klein discussed HB 107.458 occupational license fee update. This applies to all cities and counties and goes into effect July 15, 2008. He asked that all cities implement it at the same time, January 1, 2008. It is very similar to what Kenton County already uses, making it business friendly, and avoids double taxation.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OPERATIONS

City Engineer - Mr. Viox reported that plans have been completed for the sidewalk project which is the first project for the Safe Routes to School Grant. The plans include work on Mary Street, Rainbow Terrace, and Hallam Avenue. Dave Hahn is submitting the plans to the Kentucky agency managing the grant money. As soon as we get approval and specifications, we'll be presenting everything to Council for their approval.

City Attorney - No report.

City Administrator - No report.

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

CORRESPONDENCE - No correspondence.

CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - Ms. Sandra Tattershal of 307 Pleasure Isle asked if the City would blacktop Pleasure Isle Drive. She said that it makes it very hard for those residents owning property on Pleasure Isle Drive to sell with the condition of the road. She said that it had been blacktopped years ago but that is long gone.

Jim Viox stated the City has never paved Pleasure Isle Drive. He believes the paving Ms. Tattershal is speaking of was done by the Sanitation Department. It is his understanding that a new water line is planned for the road by the Water District and that they are currently taking bids for the work which includes paving the road.

Ms. Julie Stockman, of 403 James Avenue stated her family would like to have 1 day for trash pick-up and 1 day for recycling or have a 1 day a week pickup for both.

Mayor Rouse stated there have always been two pick-ups per week, but we are always open to suggestions.

BIDS - Mr. Viox reported the City of Erlanger received bids for the resurfacing on Sycamore Tree Lane, Price Avenue, Locust Street, Center Street, Clay Street, Peach Tree Lane, Redbud Court, and Cave Run Road.

Mr. Viox read the following results of the bid opening:

Paul Michaels and Sons	198,859.65
Eaton Asphalt Paving Company	199,148.00
Len Riegler Blacktop,	202,012.60
Barrett Paving Materials	219,112.35
Bluegrass Paving Materials	229,777.00

Mr. Viox recommended the City go with Paul Michaels and Sons.

M/S, Burke-Suedkamp, to accept the bid from Paul Michaels and Sons as the lowest and best bid. All ayes, no nays, motion carried

WORK IN PROGRESS - No work in progress to report at this time.

BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE CITY - Ms. Pitts stated a few council members have additional questions about the office building that is under construction next door and asked if this could be discussed next week at the committee meeting.

Mayor Rouse asked that this be placed on the agenda.

LEGISLATION - Mr. Wichmann read Ordinance 2285 adopting a budget for the City of Erlanger pursuant to K.R.S. 91A.030 (10) for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007, and providing that no monies shall be expended by or on behalf of the City of Erlanger except in accordance therewith. This was the second reading.

M/S, Hahn-Henry, to adopt and have published Ordinance 2285 adopting a budget for the City of Erlanger pursuant to K.R.S. 91A.030 (10) for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2007, and providing that no monies shall be expended by or on behalf of the City of Erlanger except in accordance therewith. Roll call vote was answered by all ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Mr. Wichmann read an ordinance amending Erlanger Ordinance No. 2275 and the budget adopted thereby for the City of Erlanger for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2006 and ending on June 30, 2007. This was the first reading.

Mr. Wichmann read Resolution 06-05-07-01, adopting and approving the execution of Municipal Aid Coop Program Contract between the Incorporated Area and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Governmental Relations for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, as provided in the Kentucky Revised Statutes and accepting all streets referred to therein as being streets which are a part of the Incorporated Area.

M/S, Dunhoft-Kyle, to adopt and allow the Mayor to sign Resolution 06-05-07-01, adopting and approving the execution of Municipal Aid Coop Program Contract between the Incorporated Area and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Transportation Cabinet, Department of Governmental Relations for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, as provided in the Kentucky Revised Statutes and accepting all streets referred to therein as being streets which are a part of the Incorporated Area.

ADJOURNMENT - M/S, Dunhoft-Kyle, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 P.M. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

APPROVED:

Thomas L. Rouse
Mayor

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra Schweikert
Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

Linda Carter
City Clerk