

City of Falmouth  
Special Council Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2017

ORIGINAL

Falmouth City Council met in special session at 5:30 pm on January 18, 2017 with Mayor Elonda L. Hinson presiding. The following Council Members were present: Sebastian Ernst, April DeFalco, Alex Carson, Amy Hitch, Ron Stinson, and Amy Hurst.

With a quorum present the meeting was called to order. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer by Council Member Hurst.

This Special Council Meeting was called to address questions and concerns regarding the Northern Kentucky Living Center and Falmouth Nursing Home that evolved after the regular monthly meeting on January 10, 2017.

Council Member Carson stated that before the meeting minutes of January 10<sup>th</sup> were approved, he would like to amend the motion made by Council Member Hurst to clarify the intent of council and correct the error of the motion stating to start the termination process of the occupational licenses for these two facilities.

Council Member Carson proceeded by amending the motion to clearly state that council only wanted to proceed with a written notice from the city to the facility owners that concerns were raised by the police and that we wish to open lines of communications between the two entities to find solutions.

- Motion to amend and correct the January 10, 2017 meeting minutes and January 17, 2017 minutes by Council Member Carson, with a second by Council Member Ernst.  
Vote: Hurst, Yes. Stinson, Yes. Hitch, Yes. Carson, Yes. DeFalco, Yes. Ernst, Yes.  
Resolved: All Aye.  
Motion carried.

Motion will be corrected in the January 10, 2017 minutes to state as follows:

- Motion to proceed with written notice from the city to the facility owners that concerns were raised by the police and that we wish to open lines of communications between the two entities to find solutions by Council Member Carson, with a second by Council Member Ernst.  
Vote: Hurst, Yes. Stinson, Yes. Hitch, Yes. Carson, Yes. DeFalco, Yes. Ernst, Yes.  
Resolved: All Aye.  
Motion carried.

Following the correction of the January 10<sup>th</sup> minutes and the clarification regarding what was discussed at the last regular council meeting the special meeting continued with discussion from many city residents as well as owners and administrators from both Northern Kentucky Living Center and Falmouth Nursing Home.

SUMMARY OF SOME COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE

Heath Culberson was present for Northern Kentucky Living Center and spoke of how he was a former City of Falmouth Police Officer and understood the situations that our Police Officers are dealing with. He expressed his concerns and informed the city of mental health training that they offer to help better understand the mentally ill. Everyone agreed with the aspect education and believed that this would help

everyone involved. He said this would help the Police Department/EMT/Fire Department etc. be better equipped to handle any situation with a mentally ill resident.

Dorothy Best spoke and said she was with NAMI a group that supports, educates, and advocates for mental health awareness. Ms. Best distributed brochures for everyone to provide knowledge of the NAMI program.

Sherry Wilcher wanted to know what NAMI was. Dorothy Best explained that NAMI stood for National Alliance of Mental Illness.

Stan Love questioned what the complaint was regarding the facilities. Council Member DeFalco stated that the issues were addressed and being handled with the individuals.

City Attorney Duncan stated the letter was intended to address the runs and problems the Police Department have been seeing. Stan Love mentioned that he thought this should go into closed session. Mr. Duncan explained to Mr. Love the Sunshine Laws with public records and that the public has the right to the information being discussed unless it falls under an exemption status, and at this time this does not.

Council Member Hurst made the comment she wants to make sure all residents and patients are safe.

Jeff Edwards, Director of Protection & Advocacy, spoke on understanding mental illness and supported the program for the Police Department to learn more on working and handling people with mental illnesses.

Resident Jennifer Thornton was concerned and wanted to know if the people with mental disorders could snap, and if it was safe for them to be walking the streets. Jeff Edwards and others commented that they have the right to walk the streets and they could snap just like anyone else could. Council Member Ernst commented and added to his mother's concerns, explaining that his father was bipolar and could go off at any moment. He expressed that he understood firsthand the importance and the dangers that come with the mentally ill and wants to make sure we are prepared to address them properly.

Falmouth Outlook Ed Salerno asked the question on how to we educate people and keep people safe.

Heath Culberson said we will start the process in our community to show why and how they do what they do and help by educating everyone. Council Member Stinson wanted to know how do we get the education process started and what can the businesses do to help. Mr. Culberson explained the different forms of education that are available and stated he will make sure this happens immediately for the Pendleton County area. Mr. Culberson has also offered his facilities help with transport.

Marty Bessler, a nurse, spoke and expressed her reasons for advocating for the mentally ill. Her son was injured and could not receive the proper care he needed, he was refused an ambulance when he had an emergency years ago and needed to go to the hospital. Since then she has spent her time educating and telling her story to help others. She strongly believes the importance of everyone being properly trained to deal with the mentally ill and having knowledge on how to help.

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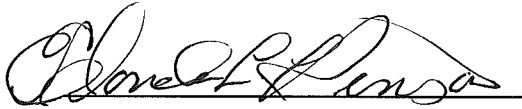
Once everyone was allowed to speak and clear the miscommunication from the last council meeting, the meeting ended on a positive note with the lines of communications open between the city and the

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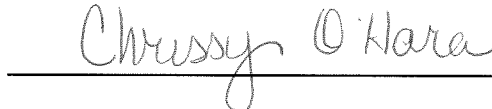
facilities. The police department will be working directly with the facilities and have better communication when it comes to issues and complaints.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Ernst, with a second by Council Member DeFalco. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.



Elonda L. Hinson, Mayor



Attest: Chrissy O'Hara, City Clerk