

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2017 in the Council Chambers of the city building. City Clerk, Melissa Kelly called the roll and the following council members were present: David Cameron, Ken Bowman, Lisa Kelly, Jeff Bezold, Roger Peterman and John Slawter. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Kelly, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, and Police Chief Mike Daly.

Mayor Eric Haas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 20, 2017 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the minutes as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Visitors and Communications

Steve Myers of 22 Highview Drive addressed council. Mr. Myers was in attendance to discuss the assessment process on street resurfacing. He indicated that in his opinion a better way to assess property owners would be to consider the total home value instead of the front footage. This seems to be a more fair process. Mayor Haas noted that this was looked at several years ago and considered a few different ways and the results did not come out to be much different in cost so the city decided to stay with the program. The city also likes the fact that residents attend the public hearing when their street is to be resurfaced. The city finds out things that need to be worked on and addressed that they may not have known. So the city receives valuable input from residents on potential issues on their streets. Mr. Bowman made a motion to refer this matter to the Finance Committee of Council for further review. It was seconded by Ms. Kelly. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. The motion carried.

Mike Wendling owner of 29 Washington Avenue addressed council. Mr. Wendling indicated that the residents of Washington are happy to be getting their street resurfaced, the new sidewalks and installation of curbs. Mr. Wendling submitted a petition signed by property owners on Washington Avenue that are asking that the city reconsider the widening of Washington Avenue. Newport and Southgate residents use Washington Avenue as a cut through to Fort Thomas and many of these drivers fail to yield. The widening would cause the traffic to

be closer to the pedestrians. Mr. Wendling referred to the city's Comprehensive Plan regarding roadways. He asked that the city look into discouraging thru traffic from Newport and Southgate. He is also concerned with the potential removal of the street lights, the residents would like for the street lights to be retained. Mr. Bowman asked if there was a reason that we could not put a "no thru" traffic sign on the street that may help discourage drivers to cut through? Ron Dill indicated that it can be placed, but it is not an enforceable offense by the police department. Discussion ensued regarding the widening of the street and the movement of traffic on the street. It was determined that staff and the engineers will set up a date to meet the residents on site and discuss their concerns.

Marjorie Hall of 22 Sterling Avenue addressed council. Ms. Hall was present to show her concern regarding TANK's proposal to eliminate the route 11 bus in Fort Thomas. She attended the TANK Board meeting on this matter last Wednesday. There were approximately 30 people there and 6-8 spoke. If this route is eliminated it will affect about 25 people that ride the bus in Fort Thomas alone. There will be approximately 6 other routes in other cities affected if this change happens. She asked what the alternatives were and what the options were for Park and Ride while at the board meeting. She had some suggestions to TANK, these were to maintain the peak times for people to ride the bus and eliminate slower times, a rate increase for the bus passes since it has not been raised in 5 years, or look into charging more for people that ride less frequently to attend Reds/Bengals games or events. She asked that Fort Thomas City Council get involved and talk to the Fiscal Court, talk to TANK and emphasize that environmentally friendly transportation is needed and the impact on the residents this will take if eliminated. Roger Peterman the city's representative for the OKI Board noted that he has been in contact with the executive director, Andy Aiello and TANK is open to suggestions and rider feedback. Roger asked for TANKS route analysis and ridership cost and was surprised that 80% of cost is personnel cost. Ron Dill also noted that he has had conversations with their Director of Operations and they do a network assessment and an annual substandard study each year. This particular route has been on the list since 2007. This doesn't mean that it will be eliminated. The city has received other emails and letters from residents and the city will be sharing their information with TANK.

Mary Jane Uhl addressed council. She noted that the possibility of eliminating the North Fort Thomas bus will also affect early and late riders. She indicated that TANK does not have an accurate count of riders because they only track outgoing buses and not incoming. This will also cut off bus service to four schools if the proposed plan is approved.

Carol Beiting of 221 Clover Ridge indicated that she takes the bus and does volunteer work. She also noted that there are a lot of students that take the bus and this bus is their lifeline and only means of transportation.

Joe Schwerling of 9 Mayfield addressed council. Mr. Schwerling has lived in Fort Thomas for 60 years and knew that TANK would eventually need to start cutting lines because ridership is down. He also noted regarding Washington Avenue that on Mayfield two cars can pass each other, so on Washington, sometimes a foot is all you need to allow two cars to pass without stopping.

Melanie Powers of 118 N. Fort Thomas Ave. addressed council. Ms. Powers indicated that if TANK messes with the bus line it will further decrease ridership. She suggested that a study be done by TANK and look at ways to enhance the current system.

Mike Wendling addressed council again regarding the bus lines. Mr. Wendling indicated that in the city's Comprehensive Plan there are bus stops with covered waiting areas. This would likely increase ridership if these were available.

Fire Department Annual Report: Chief Mark Bailey: Chief Mark Bailey presented his 2016 Annual Report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to receive and file the Fire Department's Annual Report. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. The motion carried.

Police Department Annual Report: Chief Mike Daly: Chief Mike Daly presented his 2016 Annual Report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to receive and file the Police Department's Annual Report. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. The motion carried.

Arbor Day Proclamation: Mayor Haas read the following Arbor Day Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska and is now observed throughout the USA and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, and moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community, and can be a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, 2016 was the 26th year that the City of Fort Thomas was designated as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue to foster additional tree planting.

Now, Therefore, I Eric Haas, as Mayor of the City of Fort Thomas, do hereby proclaim that April 22, 2017 be hereby designated as

“ARBOR DAY”

and urge all citizens of Fort Thomas to support efforts to care for and preserve our Landmark Trees, those in our residential and commercial areas, and further, to plant, care for and preserve trees throughout our community to enhance the spirit and well-being for our present and future generations.

Signed this 22nd day of April, 2017.

Eric Haas, Mayor
City of Fort Thomas

Reports of Officers

Fire Department Monthly Report for March: Chief Mark Bailey: Chief Mark Bailey presented his report for March to council. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to receive and file the monthly report for the Fire Department. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Police Department Monthly Report for March: Chief Mike Daly: Chief Mike Daly presented his report for March to council. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to receive and file the monthly report for the Police Department. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

City Administrator’s Report: Ron Dill:

Police Recruit Process: The city has completed the initial stages of police recruit testing that saw fifty – three (53) applicants participate. The written and physical testing is complete and the background check of top candidates is currently underway. Police Department staff will conduct interviews during the week of May 1st. It will be necessary to convene the Public Safety Committee of Council to conduct final interviews and selection. We are looking for this meeting to occur the week of May 8th beginning at 4 pm for approximately two hours. The committee will interview six candidates and will be considering one or two hires, depending on a pending retirement.

Budget Preparation: Staff is currently working on budget development and should have a preliminary budget to offer the Finance Committee for the week of May 29th.

Old Business

VA Homes Update: There has been significant progress over the last month moving this project forward. As reported, there are only a few items remaining to resolve with the VA that would

allow them to set a closing date with the city. It appears that these issues are near final resolution and will permit the VA to offer a May closing date to be determined. In the interim, Mayor Haas and staff have continued to meet with Bloomfield/Schon, developer, to work toward a “development agreement” that would detail all terms related to the city transfer of the property and the participation details of both the city and developer.

We have anticipated that when this deal gets close it would require specific and sequential actions from the city, specifically city council, to allow the project to proceed in a timely fashion. It is important that when the VA is willing to transfer the property that the city should be in position to accept it. To that end the following timeline has been established:

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – Public Hearing at 7:30 pm before the Ft Thomas Planning Commission to consider a proposed Zoning Change & Development Plan for the project. The planning commission is obligated under KRS 100 to forward a recommendation to city council on the request.

Monday, May 1, 2017 – Committee of Whole will be presented with a draft “Development Agreement” between Bloomfield/Schon and the City of Fort Thomas.

Monday, May 1, 2017, 7:00 pm - Special city council meeting to consider First Reading of the proposed Zone Change & Development Plan recommendation for the project and potential consideration of the proposed development agreement between the City and developer.

Monday, May 15, 2017, 7:00 pm – Regularly scheduled city council meeting. Agenda items to include second reading/adoption of recommended Zone Change & Development Plan and potential consideration of the proposed development agreement between the city & developer (if not previously acted upon)

May 31, 2017 – Potential closing of the VA property from the VA to the City of Fort Thomas and then the City to the developer, Bloomfield/Schon.

Deer Study: Roger Peterman had mentioned at a previous meeting that the City of Fort Thomas’ archery ordinance should be re-addressed. Mr. Dill asked that they defer the study for discussion later this year. The NKY City Managers Association is working with the KY. Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources on this issue. The KYFWR are working on an urban deer model and will be presenting at the City Manager’s meeting this Fall. Staff will update council on the information received at this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Slawter to defer the deer study until after the meeting of the City Managers Association. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no”: none. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

New Business

Report of Public Works Committee: 2017 Street Resurfacing Program: Mr. Bowman reported the following on behalf of the Public Works Committee of council:

We the undersigned members of the Public Works Committee of Council hereby report that a public hearing was conducted on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 regarding the city's proposed 2017 street resurfacing program. The 2017 street resurfacing program consists of the following streets:

**Custis Avenue
Diana Court
Highview Drive
Lafayette Court
Lilac Lane
Washington Avenue**

Committee members and staff conducted the hearing, which was attended by approximately thirty-five (35) residents and property owners, thirteen (13) of which addressed the committee. One hundred seventeen (117) properties are being assessed, so approximately 11% of affected property owners spoke at the public hearing. Generally speaking, there was support for the proposed improvements outlined within the attached Engineer's Comprehensive Report. Several asked questions specific to deteriorated conditions or drainage issues on their streets. Some asked questions about timeframe for completion. There were several complaints about speeding/speed humps. One resident expressed concern regarding the method of assessment and the cost to residents suggesting there should be a fairer assessment method involving all residents annually. There was also a request to consider lowering the interest rate for deferred payments. Generally, questions were addressed at the hearing and staff will provide follow-up to other issues discussed.

Based upon the results of the public hearing the Public Works Committee of Council hereby recommends that the city proceed with the street resurfacing improvements as proposed; and that the Board of Council authorize the first reading of the Ordinance acknowledging the city's intent to proceed with the project.

Finance Committee Report on Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 1782-1914 for the period of **March 21 – April 17, 2017.** A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Slawter. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders

Ordinance O-02-2017: An ordinance closing and vacating a portion of Tower Place was presented to council for a first reading. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

Ordinance O-03-2017: The Intent to Proceed ordinance for the 2017 Street Resurfacing Program was presented to council for a first reading. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Kelly, City Clerk