

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 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, Roger Peterman and John Slawter. Absent: Jeff Bezold. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Kelly, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, and Police Sergeant William Hunt.

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

Minutes

The minutes from the August 21, 2017 meeting was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Slawter to approve the minutes as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Visitors and Communications

Peggy and Herman Lauer of 155 Capri Drive addressed council. Mrs. Lauer indicated that the deer problem seems to be getting worse. She said that a deer nearly bit her grandson last week and her husband saw 17 deer in the woods behind their house. Mrs. Lauer questioned the hunting program and asked if there were going to be future considerations to make amendments to the current program. The Lauers do not have neighbors that would be willing to combine lots to meet the 3 acre requirement. Mr. Bowman noted that the sterilization program has been proven effective in other areas and could be possibly revenue neutral to the city with participation from citizens and local vets. Ron Dill noted that the Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife will be speaking at the next City Administrator’s meeting regarding Urban Deer Management. He will bring this information back to council. Right now to help the problem, residents can focus on not feeding the deer.

Reports of Officers

City Administrator’s Report: Ron Dill:

Chicken Coop: Staff is researching information related to this topic in preparation for consideration by the Law, Labor & License Committee meeting that has been scheduled before the next council meeting at 6:15 pm on September 18th.

Traffic studies: At the last council meeting, council heard from a resident on Holiday Lane and received a follow-up letter from Nancy McIntyre regarding a previous request on Summit Ave. Ron Dill has scheduled a conference call with the traffic engineer from CT Consultants for next week. In light of some of the recent requests and mention of speed limits, etc. Mr. Dill is looking at having some general discussion regarding speeding, posted speed limits, traffic control devices, and on-street parking standards from our engineer that may help guide consideration of these types of requests. The city does have some adopted policies and we will be reviewing and relating this information to council at a subsequent meeting. In the interim, we will be providing research & report of the specific requests as the information becomes available.

Golf Cart Ordinance: UPS has recently notified the city that they will begin in November utilizing golf carts for UPS deliveries through December. The city currently has no ordinance and State Statute dictates that we will be required to have local ordinance. Staff is researching this issue and will initiate communication with UPS officials regarding this concept.

Visioning Committees: Visioning committees are scheduled to meet next week. The kick off meeting is September 25th at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. There has been a lot of interest from the community and the city is excited to begin this process.

Moyer Traffic: School officials and the city are working with residents to help alleviate traffic around Moyer School. Surrounding side streets are currently having issues with congestion and parking problems. The city is looking at ways to re-direct traffic off of the side streets.

New Business

Consideration of Resolution supporting Separation of CERS: The discussion of pension reform is well underway and a possible “special legislative session” this Fall in Frankfort is a near certainty. The Kentucky League of Cities, in coalition with a number of other representing organizations, are still in support of the concept of separation of CERS from the KERS umbrella that represents pensions for essentially all public service employees. The City is a member of KLC and relies on their representation to protect the interest of local governments. On this issue, it has become clear that at this time, supporting the separation of CERS represents the city’s best position to protect the pensions promised our employees, control direct costs to the city, and insure the long-term viability of this system.

Staff has engaged in the research and analysis of this issue and recently attended open forum on this topic with presentation from KLC and Q&A from member city/county officials. Although it is a complex issue as it relates to the overall pension system in the state, it is evident that the position of cities should be to support this separation.

Finance Committee Report on Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 2569-2639 for the period of **August 22 – August 31, 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. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders

Ordinance O-09-2017: First reading of an ordinance adopting the 2017 Tax Rate for the City of Fort Thomas was presented to council. Joe Ewald, Finance Director explained the proposed tax rate. The rate includes a 4% increase over the compensating rate which represents a 2.4% tax rate increase representing a \$21.60 revenue increase to the average \$216,000 home in Fort Thomas. Mr. Bowman stated concern of increasing rates at the proposed 4% maximum over compensating rate and expressed that a “middle level” increase should be considered. Mr. Peterman added that the proposed tax rate should be reviewed in the context of all revenue sources and weighed against the operation of services provided which is more of a budget discussion. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

Resolution R-05-2017: A resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with the City of Southgate regarding sidewalk maintenance on U.S. 27 was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve Resolution R-05-2017. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution R-06-2017: A resolution supporting the separation of CERS from KRS was presented to council for consideration. Mayor Haas noted that this is a very preliminary process and would like the last paragraph of the resolution to read as follows: “**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Thomas City Council of the City of Fort Thomas supports separating the County Employees Retirement System from the Kentucky Retirement Systems”. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve Resolution R-06-2017 with changes. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Haas recognized Lonnie Slone and the Campbell County Detention workers that helped out during our Sesquicentennial celebration. Without these workers, this event would not have run as smoothly as it did. The City of Fort Thomas thanks all of the workers and volunteers that worked so hard that week.

With no further business to come before council, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk