

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 in the Council Chambers of the city building. City Clerk, Melissa Beckett called the roll and the following council members were present: David Cameron, Ken Bowman, Mark Collier, Roger Peterman and Adam Blau. Absent: Jeff Bezold. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrator Ron Dill, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, Acting Police Chief Brent Moening and City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden.

Mayor Eric Haas called on two young ladies to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Minutes

The minutes from the December 16, 2019 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to approve the minutes as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Visitors and Communications

Chief Bailey introduced our new Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Fite. Matt grew up in Dayton, KY and has worked with Wilder, Edgewood, and Florence Fire Departments. Mayor Haas welcomed Matt to our city family. Matt thanked the Mayor and council and introduced his family.

Terry Webster of 14 Earnscliff Ct. addressed council. Mr. Webster thanked the city for the work that was done on the fairness ordinance. He noted that as a dad it means a lot to him that his son will have the same rights as everyone else in the community.

Chris Hartmen, Executive Director of the Fairness Campaign addressed council. He thanked council and extended his gratitude for the consideration of the ordinance.

Reports of Officers

City Administrators Report:

Updates to Website: Staff has met with several providers to take over the website and has found that the platform is fine, we can use the platform that currently exists. The city is in a position that we will be hiring someone to update the website within the next thirty days.

Joint Meeting with School Board: The city has been trying to set a date to meet with the school board. The school board is available to meet on Monday, January 20th. Council agreed to meet with the school board on the 20th at 6:00 p.m. at 20 N. Grand Ave.

Committee Meetings: The Public Works Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 4:30 p.m. and the Finance Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

Discussion of TANK Redesign Study: This item has been added as an agenda item as we may have residents in attendance and as a special council meeting it must be on agenda to allow discussion. TANK has been performing a study of their entire system over the last nine months. Results of this study have impacted service delivery within Fort Thomas. They have begun the process of public meetings and there has been some input from residents as they have become aware of proposed changes. Mr. Bowman was in attendance of the meeting and had a discussion with TANK'S general manager, Andrew Aiello, and most of the cost is in the bus driver. Mr. Bowman also mentioned that this change basically takes Fort Thomas off of the map. Mr. Bowman hopes that there is something we can do to keep the bus service in the City. Mayor Haas noted that TANK is proposing to do an "Uber" like addition or concept to go along with this change. Discussion continued regarding this change with TANK. There are several other meetings on this matter coming in the future. The city will stay on top of this issue.

Discussion of Alcohol Beverage Regulations: Mr. Blau had asked that this be added to the agenda. Mr. Blau feels this is a simple change and would like to be proactive instead of reactive on this because other cities are making changes on this matter as well. Newport begins selling alcohol on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Bellevue is in the process of changing their ordinance to 9 a.m. Fort Thomas is currently selling on Sundays at 11 a.m. Mr. Blau indicated that we need to give our business the option to sell earlier on Sunday so that they can be competitive in the market. Mr. Blau spoke to all of the business in Fort Thomas that sell alcohol and every owner was in favor of the change. The state ordinance is 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week. Mayor Haas asked staff to draft an ordinance with the 9 a.m. time slot to present to the Law, Labor and License committee before the next council meeting and have the first reading at the February meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee Report of Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 6694-6839 for the period of **November 14 - December 13, 2019** was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders

Ordinance No O-18-2019: Second reading of an Ordinance establishing terms for prohibiting certain discriminatory practices within the City. Referred to as the "Fairness" ordinance was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to approve ordinance No. O-18-2019. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Haas made a few statements that he received from emails and letters from residents. Mayor Haas indicated that there are some people that are concerned about this being a political issue and shouldn't be handled on a city level; it should be done at a state or federal level. Mr. Blau indicated that he feels similar to Mayor Haas statements. Mr. Peterman noted that we would hope that there is never an issue and it is necessary. He said that it reminds him of the deer issue and that people were concerned about shooting arrows in the city and did not feel safe. Mr. Peterman noted that if someone doesn't feel safe, that is a real problem and he feels that this issue is similar. He said all people should feel welcome.

*Ordinances O-19-2019 thru O-21-2019 listed below are on the agenda for first reading and are related to a request for a zone change of property at 14 N Grand Ave that currently houses Fessler, Schneider, and Grimme Law Offices within a Professional Office Zone. The request is for this property to be included within the General Commercial zoning classification. The matter was reviewed by the Ft. Thomas Planning Commission with a development plan that proposes a restaurant use on the first floor and existing residential on the second floor. There are two associated text amendments that relate to this proposal that would permit the existing residential uses to remain on the second floor and would permit outdoor seating within a general commercial zone.

Ordinance No O-19-2019: Second reading of an Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Ordinance, Section 10.12 (A) to add “including outdoor seating” AND “Residential uses (as regulated herein)” as a permitted uses in the General Commercial Zone was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to approve ordinance No. O-19-2019. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No O-20-2019: Second reading of an Ordinance amending the Official Zoning Ordinance, Section 10.12E to add to the list of OTHER DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS “Residential uses shall be restricted to floors other than ground floor. Residential floor space shall not exceed a ratio of 2:1 of other permitted use(s) in the structure was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to approve ordinance No. O-20-2019. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. O-21-2019: Second reading of an Ordinance amending the zoning classification for property at 14 N Grand Ave from Professional Office (PO) to General Commercial (GC) was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to approve ordinance No. O-21-2019. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. O-01-2020: First reading of an Ordinance apportioning the assessments for the improvements to Fairview Avenue, Grant Street, Ohio Avenue, Ridgeway Avenue, Sheridan Avenue, Sherman Avenue, and Vernon Lane; all in accordance with the 2019 Street Improvement Program was presented to council. The summary of street, estimated assessment, the actual assessment and the difference are noted as follows:

STREET	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Fairview Avenue	\$ 6.58	\$ 6.21	\$ 0.37
Grant Street	\$ 10.86	\$ 9.21	\$ 1.65
Ohio Avenue	\$ 10.35	\$ 9.03	\$ 1.32
Ridgeway Avenue	\$ 8.96	\$ 7.88	\$ 1.08
Sheridan Avenue	\$ 9.63	\$ 7.84	\$ 1.79
Sherman Avenue	\$ 9.83	\$ 8.08	\$ 1.75
Vernon Lane	\$ 8.63	\$ 6.67	\$ 1.96

This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

Executive Order EO-17-2019: An Executive Order appointing Matt Fite to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic Grade 3B in the Fort Thomas Fire Department was presented to council with no action necessary.

Implementation of the City's Community Plan: Ron Dill and Chris Manning: Mr. Dill and Mr. Manning presented a PowerPoint to the Mayor and council regarding the City's Community Plan. Mr. Dill and Mr. Manning walked through the process, accomplishments, projects and initiatives and identifying next steps.

Closed Session: Staff is requesting council to enter into closed session for the following purpose:

1) In accordance with KRS section 61.810 (f) – Discussions which might lead to an appointment of an employee within a safety department.

A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bowman to adjourn into Closed Session.

Attending the closed session were: Mayor Haas, David Cameron, Ken Bowman, Mark Collier, Roger Peterman, Adam Blau, CAO Ron Dill, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, and City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden.

A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to reconvene the regular meeting of council.

With no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to adjourn.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk