

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020  
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. City Clerk, Melissa Beckett called the roll and the following council members were present: David Cameron, Ken Bowman, Mark Collier, Jeff Bezold, and Adam Blau. Roger Peterman arrived at 7:10 p.m. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, Police Chief Casey Kilgore and City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the June 15, 2020 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau to approve the minutes as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Reports of Officers**

**Fire Department Monthly Report, Chief Mark Bailey:** Chief Bailey presented his monthly report to council. Chief Bailey updated council on the Covid 19 Pandemic as related to our Fire Department. Fire staff are staying very safe and have all of the PPE that they need. Chief Bailey is very proud of his staff. Chief Bailey updated on the radio grant from FEMA. This crossover will likely happen in the Fall. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to receive and file the Fire Department monthly report for June. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Police Department Monthly Report, Chief Casey Kilgore: Chief Kilgore presented his monthly report to council. Chief Kilgore noted that there have been quite a few complaints regarding speeding within the city. There has been a permanent speed sign placed on Chesapeake Avenue and this has helped slow people down. Chief Kilgore thanked Chief Bailey for heading up the radio purchase. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to receive and file the Police Department monthly report for June. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**City Administrators Report:**

**Utility Projects:** In addition to the major storm/sanitary sewer project on Waterworks Road, SD1 is preparing a sanitary & storm sewer replacement behind Floral Court, a section of Rosemont Ave. and along Memorial Parkway from W. Southgate Ave to Clover Ridge. This project addresses some long term drainage issues in the Strathmore/Rosemont intersection.

NKWD is scheduled to begin the water main replacement project on Crowell in early August with a completion date of early November. This work is being done in advance of our scheduled resurfacing of this street.

**Alexander Circle Update:** There are first closings on units in mid-July so occupancy will begin by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The road resurfacing is being performed in conjunction with the Tower Park paving project

that is also scheduled to be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. City crews are performing work at the intersection of Douglas and Cochran Avenue and should finish up early next week.

**Community Plan Implementation Update:** Staff is continuing with work toward the renovation of the Tower Park ball field. The backstop fencing replacement and the finish field work is currently out for bid and should be presented to council at the August council meeting. The initial grading, fence removal and razing of the restroom building will take place in advance of this work. The timeline is to have the field portion completed by late Fall and amenities completed in the Spring.

**One Highland Update:** The Bond issue approved at the last council meeting has been sold and closing for the financing of this project was completed this week. The construction schedule will see commencement within the next two weeks.

**Bids:** The city is out for bid for a new backhoe replacement. We are also bidding out for the new ambulance as well in the near future.

**Covid Update:** The concert for tomorrow night has been cancelled. The city will be doing an evaluation of our facilities in relation to Covid. The farmers market has reached record numbers and they do a great job.

**Website:** Staff has been working on the new website. Joe Ewald and Melissa Beckett have been working directly with the consultant, Shawn Mummert. Joe Ewald updated council on the different functions of the website. There will be a second phase to change the appearance of the site and work on push notifications so that residents can sign up for notifications.

Mr. Bowman indicated that the city needs to get the message out regarding staying safe with social distancing, sanitizing and facial coverings. He feels very strongly that we need to utilize all of the resources we have to get the word out.

### **New Business**

**Consideration of the FOP and AFSCME Working Agreements:** At this time staff is presenting an accepted three year agreement from the FOP (Police) and AFSCME (Public Works) union groups. We have a tentative agreement with the IAFF (Fire) and are awaiting approval from their membership. Mr. Bezold asked how many cities in NKY have unions. Mr. Dill noted that Covington, Newport and Fort Thomas are the only cities that recognize unions. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to approve the FOP and AFSCME Working Agreements. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Finance Committee Report of Disbursements:** The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 7765-7921 for the period of **June 12 – July 17, 2020** 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, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders**

**Ordinance No. O-08-2020:** First reading amending the golf cart ordinance to omit section IV (6) that limits hours of operation. This reflects the recent change under state statutes approved under HB382 in the last session. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

**Ordinance No. O-09-2020:** First Reading of an Ordinance adopting a 3% adjustment in pay for members of AFSCME (public works), FOP (Police) and all non-union employees (recreation, administration, finance, department heads, greenspace, and part-time employees). We have yet to finalize negotiations with the IAFF (Fire). The Finance Committee of Council reviewed all proposed rate of pay adjustments as a component of their budget review and recommended approval. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

**Ordinance No. O-10-2020:** First Reading of an Ordinance amending the Personnel and Pay Classification Plan. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

**R-04-2020: Resolution for authorization to file a Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Application:** The State of Kentucky has allocated funds received from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to local governments to obtain reimbursement for COVID related expenses. The application process with the KY Department of Local Governments requires passage of this resolution to authorize the Mayor to submit for qualified reimbursement from the \$1,176,677 allocation assigned to the City of Fort Thomas. Staff has prepared an initial request for just over 50% of the city's portion of this fund based on expenses related to purchase of PPE, technology for remote work, and payroll expenses to date. The remainder would be requested in a second application that would reimburse for future COVID related expenses before December 31, 2020. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve resolution R-04-2020. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Liquor License Application, Joe Ewald:** Application has been received from DSYP Corp. *dba* Fort Thomas Shell, 1429 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075, for an NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package License. The application is on file in the office of the City Alcoholic Beverage Control Administrator and will be finally considered at the City Council Meeting on August 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at the Fort Thomas City Building Council Chambers. Any person having good cause or reason to object to the granting of this license may appear before the ABC Administrator and be heard or may submit written comments prior to the meeting.

Mr. Blau asked about looking into parking time limits in the Midway District because there have been some complaints about parking and a handicap space should be added as well. Staff will get this issue assigned to a committee meeting in the near future.

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

APPROVED:

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Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk