

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 16, 2021. Melissa Beckett, City Clerk, called the roll and the following council members were present: Ben Pendery, Ken Bowman, Jeff Bezold, Adam Blau and Connie Grubbs. Absent: Lisa Kelly. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Fire Chief Chris Amon, Police Chief Casey Kilgore and City Attorney Tim Schneider.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the July 19, 2021 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Grubbs to approve the minutes as written. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**Visitors and Communications**

Chief Casey Kilgore presented Lieutenant Adam Noe with his badge and congratulated him on his promotion. Lt. Noe introduced his family and thanked the Mayor and council. Chief Kilgore then introduced Lieutenant Nathan Day and presented him with his badge and congratulated him on his promotion. Lieutenant Day introduced his family and thanked the mayor and council. Chief Kilgore then introduced Sergeant Matt Marksbury and presented him with his badge. Sgt. Marksbury introduced his family and thanked the Mayor and council. Sergeant Michael Dietz will be in attendance of the September 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting for his badge pinning.

Susan Girard of 21 Fairview and Susie Reitman addressed council. Ms. Reitman discussed the pickleball courts. There is a group that plays on Friday and Saturday mornings, they use sidewalk chalk to line out 6 courts. They both urged everyone to try out the game, it has really become popular around the Tri-state. They asked if the location on Sergeant, where a skate park is being proposed, if the city would consider adding a pickleball court as well They also noted that there is a pickleball tournament on Labor Day.

Clem Fennell of 404 S. Grand Avenue asked with the growing number of mandates regarding Covid, what the city's intentions were. Mayor Haas indicated that this matter will be addressed later in the meeting.

Justin Otto, Economic Development Director for Campbell County addressed council. Mr. Otto mentioned that there is a 9 week Campbell County Citizens Academy being offered in September that will teach people about how county government tax dollars are used. The goal is to share information with more people about the county's services. The group will consist of approximately 25 people. You may sign up at [www.campbellcountyky.gov](http://www.campbellcountyky.gov)

**Reports of Officers**

**Fire Department Monthly Report, Chief Chris Amon:** Chief Amon presented his report for July to council. Mr. Bezold asked if the Fire Department offers CPR classes. Chief Amon noted that there is a link on the website where you can sign up for a class. A motion was made by Mr.

Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau to receive and file the monthly report for the Fire Department. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**Police Department Monthly Report, Chief Casey Kilgore:** Chief Kilgore presented the police monthly report for July to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau to receive and file the monthly report for the Police Department. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **City Administrator's Report: Ron Dill**

**2020 Street Program:** Reigler Blacktop Company initiated milling this week with paving expected to be completed next week. Streets in the program include Military Parkway, Robson Avenue, Beechwood Avenue, Crowell Avenue, Greenwood Avenue, Holly Lane, Mayfield Avenue (including Highland Park) and N. Fort Thomas Avenue (Covert Run to Corp.line)

**2021 Street Program – Wilbers Lane:** Duke Energy is beginning work next week on replacement of their utility poles AND gas main/services along the entire street. This work is necessary because the gas utility is too shallow for the undercut/road replacement. This work is scheduled to be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup> when street reconstruction will begin. Residents were recently notified by mail of this schedule.

**City Building Update:** The steel framework for the addition is near completion. Interior work includes the installation of ductwork, electric, sprinkler piping throughout the building. The sprinkler piping is presently being installed in the Police Department. Office partition framing on the first & second floors is also near completion.

The critical item is the completion of the sidewalk and driveway along the frontage of the project. The tear out & replacement of the driveway into the Fire Department bays will take place next week. Subsequent to that will be the remainder of public sidewalk and the installation of the pavers. This work is scheduled to be completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>. We are dealing with the issue of managing pedestrians with our contractor during this time.

**Tower Park Playground Equipment:** Unfortunately we have been informed of shipping delays for the equipment and are now expecting delivery & installation in mid-September. We have initiated work on the preparation at the ballfield location; the area where the equipment will be located at shelter #3 is completed.

**Community Plan Implementation:** The projects for proposed skate/bike park in Tower Park and the splash park in Highland Park has been posted in booths at recent events (Farmer's Market, Summer Concerts, 4<sup>th</sup> at Fort, etc) to solicit input/feedback from residents. This information is being compiled for review and presentation before the Recreation Committee at their meeting on **Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** in the Mess Hall.

**Personnel:** Please join me in thanking Julie Rice, General Services Assistant who is retiring at the end of this month. A valued member of our organization, Ron had the personal pleasure of hiring and working with Julie in the General Services Department. We will miss her so much!

### **Unfinished Business**

**Covid 19 Discussion/Update:** Mayor Haas indicated that there has been a lot of changes with the Covid variant recently. Mayor Haas personally knows 2 vaccinated people that were diagnosed with Covid but fortunately it was mild cases. Mayor Haas also noted that the Health Department indicated that they have not had much luck with remote vaccination locations. Ron Dill said that

the Health Department are not offering the opportunity to the city to have vaccinations but referred us to other vendors such as Walgreens or Kroger. We reached out to these vendors and they indicated that they would be willing to come and give all available shots (Covid, Flu, etc.). We are working on the details of working these into our events moving forward. Ken Bowman noted that the Chamber of Commerce is taking a very strong stance on masking and getting out information to the public. Ms. Grubbs noted that the city needs to be proactive about communicating about this serious issue.

### **Public Comment**

Tammy Nolan of Bellevue, KY addressed council. Ms. Nolan asked why the city isn't educating people on the possible sickness or death that could result from getting the Covid shot. She has 2 family members that have died from the shot and she feels like if the city is going to put out information on Covid, they should also put out information regarding the effects of the vaccine.

Ryan Sainola from 131 Forest Avenue addressed council. Mr. Sainola noted that Covid has been around for almost 2 years now and at this point people have made up their minds on how they want to address it, whether it be wearing a mask or not wearing one, or getting the vaccine or not getting the vaccine.

Maggie McCluskey from 246 Riverside Parkway addressed council. She believes that knowledge is power but you also need to be educated on every aspect of Covid before putting any information out for the public.

Penny Marzano from Avenel Place addressed council. She noted that it is not the government's job to protect us, their job is to protect our rights and liberty. If you don't feel safe, do not go out. We do not need the council to protect us and the government should stay out of people's private lives.

Jeff Bezold noted that not everyone on council feels the same way that councilman Bowman feels. Mr. Bezold likes getting as much information out there as a city, and letting the adults make their own decisions.

Mr. Pendery indicated that Covid is changing rapidly and as a member of city council, it is not his decision to enact any mandate. Mr. Pendery agrees with Mr. Sainola's point that this has been around for a long time and people know the rules as far as social distancing and hand washing. Mr. Pendery thanked everyone for coming and voicing their opinions.

Kim Zimmerman of 203 N. Ft. Thomas Ave. addressed council. She feels that it is the government's job to protect our rights, not to give out information on Covid. She doesn't think that the city council should use tax payer dollars to share information on the website regarding Covid.

Ken Bowman noted that messaging from credible sources is important. These sources all concur that this is a real threat and we need to look to these sources for direction. Mayor Haas said that our best bet is to do nothing. The city will not be posting information on Covid on the website.

Mr. Blau indicated that it is your choice to do what you want as far as masking or vaccines.

Ms. Grubbs noted that you can't go wrong by using credible messaging to help the community and she doesn't see why we wouldn't protect the people by wearing a mask. She also indicated that no one on council is proposing a mask mandate within the city.

Theresa Schaffer of 30 Azalea Terrace addressed council. Ms. Schaffer noted that it is not council's responsibility or right to mandate masks. She said that even with masks, the virus could still be transferred. This is crushing small businesses all over the country. Let people choose for themselves, we have the right to make those decisions.

### **New Business**

**Report of the Law, Labor, and License Committee:** Ms. Grubbs reported that the Law, Labor and License Committee met before the council meeting and there will be more discussion on this matter at before the next meeting of council.

**Finance Committee Report of Disbursements:** The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 9657-9779 for the period of **July 17 – August 11, 2021** was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Penderly to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Penderly, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Ms. Grubbs. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **Ordinances and Orders**

**Ordinance O-11-2021:** An ordinance amending the waste fees for the City of Fort Thomas was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Grubbs to approve Ordinance O-11-2021. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye" – Mr. Penderly, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Ms. Grubbs. Voting "no" – none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Executive Order EO-04-2021:** An Executive Order promoting Sgt. Adam Noe to the position of Lieutenant in the Police Department was presented to council with no action necessary.

**Executive Order EO-05-2021:** An Executive Order promoting Sgt. Nathan Day to the position of Lieutenant in the Police Department was presented to council with no action necessary.

**Executive Order EO-06-2021:** An Executive Order promoting Patrolman Michael Dietz to the position of Sergeant in the Police Department was presented to council with no action necessary.

**Executive Order EO-07-2021:** An Executive Order promoting Patrolman Matthew Marksberry to the position of Sergeant in the Police Department was presented to council with no action necessary.

**Executive Order EO-08-21:** An Executive Order appointing Cheri Scherpenberg to the position of General Services Assistant was presented to council with no action necessary.

### **Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau to enter into executive session in accordance with KRS section 61.810 (b) – for the deliberation of the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency. Public discussion could potentially affect the value of the property.

Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Pendery, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Ms. Grubbs. Voting “no”: none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Grubbs to reconvene the regular meeting of council. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Pendery, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Ms. Grubbs. Voting “no”: none.

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

APPROVED:

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Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk