

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022**

**7:00 Liquor License Public Hearing:** Melissa Beckett, City Clerk opened the liquor license public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for H. Tiwana, Inc. Ms. Beckett read the public notice for the record and called for comments. With no comments received the public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m. The public notice is listed below:

Application has been received from H. Tiwana, Inc., dba: H. Tiwana, Inc., 2179 Memorial Parkway, 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 Monday, May 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at the Fort Thomas Mess Hall / Community Center at 801 Cochran Street, Fort Thomas, KY 41075. 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. Signed: Joseph Ewald, ABC Administrator

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022. Melissa Beckett, City Clerk, called the roll and the following council members were present: Lisa Kelly, Ben Pendery, Ken Bowman, Jeff Bezold, Adam Blau and Roger Peterman. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, Fire Chief Chris Amon, Police Chief Casey Kilgore, and City Attorney Tim Schneider.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the April 18, 2022 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. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**Visitors and Communications:**

Chuck Keller, Chairman of the Fort Thomas Forest Conservancy addressed council. Mr. Keller discussed the conservation easement in Tower Park. Specifically the proposed zip line and ropes course that would pass through the easement. The Conservancy is opposed to this proposed project.

Paul Pratt of 58 Lockwood Place addressed council and pointed out that he would not want a zip line in his “back yard” and to keep this in mind if this is something that council would consider in the future.

Erin Sizemore of 41 Highland Avenue addressed council. Ms. Sizemore is running for District Court Judge in Campbell County.

Joan Ferris of 66 Burney Lane. Ms. Ferris addressed council regarding the zoning ordinance that the Planning Commission have been meeting about for approximately a year. In addition to the zoning ordinance, she requested a formal information session outside of the Planning Commission

meetings to clarify the information presented by CT Consultants. Discussion ensued between staff and members of council.

Thomas Meyn of 25 Margarete Ave. addressed council regarding updates on the skate park. He mentioned that he would like to be involved in the process.

Elizabeth Allegrini of 45 Lockwood addressed council regarding the website and finding meetings. Several council members noted that a lot of these meetings are not scheduled in advance and the city is required by KRS to give a 24 hour notice of the meeting.

Jennifer Paolucci of 1 Rosemont addressed council regarding Riggs Park at the corner of Memorial Parkway and W. Southgate. SD1 is currently working on installing pipe through the park and this would be a good time for an update. The city will be working with SD1 on rebuilding and updating the park.

Tayrn Lattarulo of 95 Strathmore addressed council regarding Riggs Park. She noted that she has small kids that play at Riggs Park and she would like to see the city update the park.

Kate Kruse of 66 Lockwood Place addressed council regarding the trees that were cut in Tower Park and asked if it was on private property. It was noted that the property owner did not cut outside of his property lines and the city is working with the Forest Conservancy, the Division of Forestry and the Tree Commission on proper re-forestation of this area. Ms. Kruse also asked about the property on Memorial Parkway referred to as Carlisle Park and if there would be pickle ball courts at that location. Ron Dill noted that they are in very preliminary stages of the planning of that park.

### **Reports of Officers**

**Fire Department Monthly Report, Chief Chris Amon:** Fire Chief Chris Amon presented the fire monthly report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Bowman 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:** Police Chief Casey Kilgore presented the police monthly report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Pendery 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**

#### **City Building Update:**

**Interior:** Progress continues on the inside of the building with most of the walls now primed and ceiling tile grids installed and tile being installed. The install of ceiling tile, finish paint, tile and some floor coverings will be completed by the end of the month.

**Exterior:** The cleaning and staining of the aggregate portions of the façade will be completed in the next two weeks. Landscaping is scheduled to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Electrical equipment lead time/delivery still represents the longest hold-up from having a completion date.

**Tower Park Swings/Mess Hall Walkway:** General Services crews have completed the custom built pergolas that will support the swings to be situated at the overlook on Alexander Circle. They have also completed the walkway adjacent to the Mess Hall and will soon be constructing the pergola/plaza at that location.

**Tower Park Shelter/Restrooms:** Construction of this project commenced with footers and foundations completed. The utility connections are available on site. This project should complete in approximately ninety (90) days, however, there are some potential supply chain issues that may delay portions from full completion. Regardless, it should still be available for use later in this season.

An update on the Public Buildings and Utilities Committee meeting was presented by Ron Dill. He noted that Duke Energy will be moving forward with the LED lighting replacement. The initial cost will be approximately \$420K with a 7 year return on investment.

**Tower Park Shelter #1 Playground Update:** The playground is not ready to go to the Recreation Committee. Chris Manning with Human Nature is working on a plan.

Mr. Bowman also noted that the city's paper of record, the Campbell County Recorder will be discontinued at the end of May. He asked who the city will use as their paper of record. Mr. Dill noted that the statute will dictate what direction we go with the paper, but the city will likely use the Kentucky Enquirer.

Mr. Bowman asked about the statue that stood in Mike Skop's front yard for years. He noted that Kathy Skop donated it to the City and it has been in storage for years. It is laying outside in two pieces and needs to be moved and put into safe storage. Mr. Bowman would like to see it put up at the end of the drive in Highland Park by the dog park. The name of the statue is Kentucky Settlers.

Ron signed off with his last report to council and said a few words. Mayor Haas told Ron that the city would like to name the ballfield in Tower Park after him, Dill Field. Ron thanked everyone and was humbled by the gesture.

Mayor Haas introduced the city's new city administrator, Matt Kremer. Matt is looking forward to starting and meeting with staff. Matt introduced his family and Mayor Haas welcomed them.

**Municipal Order MO-10-2022:** A municipal order appointing Matthew Kremer to the position of City Administrative Officer was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Pendery to approve municipal order MO-10-2022. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Ms. Kelly, Mr. Pendery, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Peterman. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **New Business**

**Report from "Branding" Selection Committee:** Brandfuel Company has been selected as the preferred vendor for providing branding services for the city. Chanda Calentine, Renaissance Manager introduced Brandfuel representatives, Mark, Kelsie, and Stephanie who presented a video presentation of an overview of their company and what they do. They are excited to work with the city on the re-branding of Fort Thomas.

**Consideration of Amendment to Code Enforcement Board Ordinance:** Staff is recommending an amendment that will increase the fine schedule for property maintenance offenses. The Code Enforcement Board and enforcement process was adopted in 2018. To date, it has worked well to resolve most violations as we have experienced compliance after their initial notice, appeal to the board, or when a fine is levied. The issue that has remained are typically properties that are not occupied. In these instances, for whatever reason, the owners have continued to leave the property unattended and therefore a blight remaining in the neighborhood. A draft of an ordinance of a proposed increase for certain fines with the intention to accelerate the amount of fines against a property with a corresponding intent to be to place a lien and initiate foreclosure to force collection and/or participation in addressing the issues on the property. Sam Shelton explained the process of citing a property that is in violation and noted that the properties that we are currently citing are not responsive to the notices. Discussion ensued between council and staff. The ordinance will be given a first reading later in the meeting.

**Discussion – Fort Thomas Schools use of City Building:** The city has had discussions with the Ft. Thomas Schools Superintendent Brian Robinson regarding the possible use of the City Building (upon completion) to conduct their public meetings. They are making some adjustments of their facilities and would benefit from the use of the larger meeting room on the second floor. Potentially they may be able to conduct other types of meetings, but presently would like to explore the option of holding their school board meetings at this location.

This concept actually meets the objectives of the city building being more available for public use, having more planned use of the spaces and being more of the “central hub” of our community. This type of commitment would only take the building “off-line” to the city on the second Monday of each month in the evening. Other time request would only be offered on an availability basis.

We have discussed a potential agreement whereby they would extend custodial staff to the city building and we would only pay for “our time” of that personnel and they would carry all other employee costs (insurance, time-off, pension, etc.) This also addresses the need that we will have for everyday maintenance of our newly renovated space.

If council wishes to proceed with this arrangement, staff would work with Superintendent Robinson to draft an agreement that addresses all the pertinent details. A motion was made by Mr. Blau and seconded by Mr. Peterman to allow the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Fort Thomas Independent School District to allow use of the city building for meetings. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance Committee Report of Disbursements:** The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 11057-11190 for the period of **April 15 – May 13, 2022.** A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Ms. Kelly, Mr. Pendery, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Peterman. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **Ordinances and Orders**

**Ordinance O-03-2022:** Consideration of an ordinance to initiate changing the speed limit on Grant Street and Woodfill Avenue to 20 mph. was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve ordinance O-03-2022. Upon call of the roll,

the following members voted “aye”: Ms. Kelly, Mr. Pendery, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Peterman. Voting “no”: none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Ordinance O-04-2022:** First reading of an ordinance establishing the annual salary for the Position of City Administrative Officer. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

**Ordinance O-05-2022:** First reading of an ordinance adjusting fines for code enforcement violations. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

**Municipal Order MO-08-2022:** A municipal order re-appointing Jeff Mohr to the Tree Commission was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Pendery to approve municipal order MO-08-2022. The mayor called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**Municipal Order MO-09-2022:** A municipal order re-appointing Lori Wendling as a member of the Design Review Board was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Pendery to approve municipal order MO-09-2022. The mayor called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Order EO-11-2022:** An executive order appointing Leticia Messmer as a member of the Renaissance Board was presented to council with no action necessary.

**Executive Order EO-12-2022:** An executive order re-appointing Michelle Knight as a member of the Renaissance Board was presented to council with no action necessary.

**Executive Order EO-13-2022:** An executive order re-appointing Kathy Sonnet as a member of the Renaissance Board was presented to council with no action necessary.

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