

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 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 Matt Kremer, 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 September 6, 2022 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Pendery to approve the minutes as written. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Visitors and Communications:

Fire Department Promotions: Chief Chris Amon: Chief Amon presented Kasey Carr with his Captains badge and congratulated him on his promotion. Kasey introduced his family and thanked the mayor and council for this opportunity. Chief Amon then presented Sam Behrle with his Lieutenants badge and congratulated him on his promotion. Sam introduced his family and thanked the mayor and council for this opportunity.

Presentation of Proclamation and Clock for Mark Leopold: Mayor Haas read a proclamation and presented Mark Leopold with a clock in recognition of his 23+ years on the city's Tree Commission. Mark will be stepping off of the commission and the city appreciates his service as a valued volunteer.

Presentation of Art Work by Beverly Erschell to the city: Sheri Thompson introduced Beverly Ershcell to council. Mrs. Erschell has painted a beautiful piece to be displayed in the upstairs lobby of the city building. Mrs. Erschell portrayed Fort Thomas in her painting so wonderfully, it is truly a piece that will be cherished by the city for years to come.

Joan Ferris from 66 Burney Lane addressed council regarding the Grow Grant Ordinance. She is appreciative of the work done on the ordinance and feels that it will prevent favoritism. She also noted that the word "blight" should be removed because there is no "blight" in Fort Thomas based on the federal definition of the word.

Elizabeth Allegrini from 45 Lockwood Ave. addressed council. Ms. Allegrini addressed council regarding the Grow Grant Ordinance and what past grants were used for. She thanked council for putting this ordinance together and then questioned how many Grow Grants were used for ADA compliance. The information from her previous open records request indicated that one grant was used for ADA compliance.

Report of Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Report from the Finance Committee: Ben Pendery updated council on the Grow Grant ordinance. He reviewed the parameters of the grant and ordinance. The Finance Committee did not make a decision at the meeting prior to council and it was the consensus of the committee to meet again prior to October's council meeting. Mr. Pendery fully expects to have a recommendation to council at the October meeting.

Reports of Officers

Fire Department Monthly Report: Chief Chris Amon: Chief Amon presented his monthly report to council. Chief Amon reminded everyone to make sure they check their smoke detectors. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the monthly report from 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 his monthly report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve the monthly report from the police department. Mayor Haas called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

City Administrator's Report: Matt Kremer: Matt Kremer reported on the following:

Ladder Truck Purchase: Fire Department staff have been researching a new ladder truck to replace the current truck. This will also allow the city to surplus the pumper truck, as the new truck will serve as both. To avoid a large increase that will happen at the end of September, the city is looking at one particular truck, a Pierce single axel, with a 500 gallon water tank and 100 ft. ladder. The company is going to look into a 30 day extension but if the city does not get that, the price will increase by approximately \$20,000. The current price on the truck is \$1,425,000.00. Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of the ladder truck and Chief Amon reviewed the reasons why they are looking at this particular truck. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with the Pierce Company, for the purchase of a Ladder Truck, in an amount up to \$1,500,000.00. 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.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Ben Pendery commended the fire department for their program to install car seats. Ben and his wife had taken their vehicle up to the fire department for an installation and he noted that they were very thorough, inspected the vehicle and made them feel very comfortable with the car seat installation.

Ken Bowman asked if the fire department still offers CPR classes. Chief Amon indicated that they do still offer these classes and people can find the information on the classes and the car seat installation program on the website at www.ftthomas.org/Fire/PublicEducation.

Ken Bowman asked about the NKY Water District allowing the public to begin walking around the reservoir again. Matt Kremer indicated that the city is in discussions with the NKY Water District and will discuss further once the south reservoir is emptied and cleaned. This will likely be an approximate 2 year process.

Mr. Bowman stated his concerns over proposed changes to the permitted deer hunting hours. The current hours are ½ hour before sunrise to 10 a.m. The proposed hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Mr. Bowman is hoping that we can take that piece of business off of the table as he is opposed to it. Mr. Bezold noted that this matter will likely go to the Law Labor, and License committee to be discussed. The ordinance that was send via email to council was simply a sample of what it would look like if the city decided to change it. Ms. Kelly asked why the city is proposing this and why is this needed? Mr. Bezold noted that the current program does not seem to be working as it should and the city does have data that the numbers of accidents have not decreased. Mr. Pendery noted that he thought it should not be discussed at the meeting tonight, because to be transparent, it should be referred to committee and have a conversation about it.

Ken Bowman asked about the progress on the charging stations at the 1 Highland and 18 North locations. Matt Kremer noted that he has met with Duke Energy and the stations will be approximately \$10k each. Matt is waiting until the 18 North parking lot is completed and will move forward with further discussions once this is completed.

Finance Committee Report of Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 11687-11855 for the period of **August 12 – September 14, 2022.** 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”: 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-10-2022: An ordinance establishing the 2022 tax rate was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve Ordinance O-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.

Executive Order EO-15-2022: An executive order appointing Kasey Carr to the position of Fire Captain was presented to council with no action necessary.

Executive Order EO-16-2022: An executive order appointing Sam Behrle to the position of Fire Lieutenant was presented to council with no action necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to add Municipal Order MO-19-2022 to the agenda for consideration.

Municipal Order MO-19-2022: A municipal order authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with the Pierce Company to purchase a ladder truck for the Fort Thomas Fire Department in an amount up to \$1,500,000.00 was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to approve municipal order MO-19-2022. 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.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk