

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2023. Matt Kremer, City Administrator, called the roll and the following Council members were present: Ben Pendery, Jeff Bezold, Adam Blau, Andy Ellison, Eric Strange, and Lauren McIntosh. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Matt Kremer, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Fire Chief Chris Amon, Police Chief Casey Kilgore, and City Attorney Tim Schneider.

Pledge to the Flag

Minutes

The minutes from the December 5, 2022 Caucus Meeting and the December 19, 2022 regular meeting of Council were presented to council for consideration.

December 5, 2022: Motion by Adam Blau, second by Jeff Bezold. The motion passed unanimously.

December 19, 2022: Motion by Adam Blau, second by Jeff Bezold. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors and Communications:

Oaths of Office: The Mayor and City Council were officially sworn into office prior to January 1, 2023. Judge Cameron Blau and Judge Erin Sizemore were present to ceremonially swear in the Mayor and Council.

Mark Collier from 16 Madonna Place addressed Council on behalf of the Fort Thomas Business Association. Mr. Collier touched on goals that the Business Association are looking at for 2023 and look forward to working with the city in conjunction with these goals.

Greg Newberry from 25 Cannon Ridge addressed Council. Mr. Newberry brought up concerns about the Liquor Barn located at 424 Alexandria Pike that hosted a public raffle, bringing parking and noise complaints.

Peggy Maggio from 37 Shaw Lane addressed Council. Mrs. Maggio addressed council on the Comprehensive Plan update and Historical Preservation.

Mayor Haas thanked Shari Thompson for all of her work with decorating the city building. Shari has done an amazing job.

Reports of Officers

Fire Department Monthly Report: Chief Chris Amon: Chief Amon presented his monthly report to Council. A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Blau 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. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Ellison 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:

- The City Building is getting close to completion The city received approval from the building inspector to allow city council meetings to take place in the building but we are still waiting on 2 electrical panels. We are in hopes to be moving back in the next couple of weeks.
- Staff is focusing on public meeting procedures to limit public comments to 3 minutes and have citizens sign in if they would like to speak so that the city has their contact information.
- Public Works has had 2 snow events over the past month. It was challenging but they did a good job with it and stayed safe.
- The Grow Grant application has been extended until Friday, January 27th at 4:00 p.m.
- The City has begun the foreclosure process on three problem properties within the city. The property owners have been notified of the fines and no action has been taken to correct the violations.
- The city is submitting a second letter to the Transportation Cabinet regarding our position on Route 8. Staff and city engineers have looked into a plan to assist KYTC in helping with in kind work to clean out drainage areas and culverts and other smaller issues under \$25,000. There is too much financial impact and liability to the city to take over that portion of the roadway.
- The Campbell County Hazard Mitigation Committee are looking for interested councilmembers to serve as members.
- The City was approached for a design plan grant for Riverfront Commons, (Ludlow to Silver Grove will be included). This grant will be specific to the design of this area, focusing on bike and walking trails for the public.
- Mr. Kremer reached out to the Fort Thomas Swim Club for updates on their plan moving forward in conjunction with the spray ground in Highland Park.
- Bids for sewer work to be performed at Highland Park will be opened on February 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
- Staff has arranged an open forum to take place the day after the Planning Commission meeting. This will be a Q&A session we are calling “Office Hours”. The City hopes to answer questions from the previous night’s meeting.
- The City has agreed to assist the City of Southgate with the reconstruction of Blossom Lane. The City will put \$20,000 toward the reconstruction, making it much safer.
- Initial union contract negotiation will begin next week. Council will meet in executive session to consider these requests.
- Next month the city will have 2 presenters, Beth Johnson from the Cincinnati Preservation Association and Rick Werth, CEO for the Children’s Home of NKY.

Finance Committee Report of Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 12309-12443 for the period of **December 16, 2022 – January 17, 2023.** A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Bezold to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Pendery, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Strange, and Ms. McIntosh. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ordinances and Orders

Ordinance O-01-2023: An ordinance setting the time and location of Council and Council Committee meetings was presented to Council for a first reading. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of Council for consideration.

Ordinance O-02-2023: An ordinance adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances for 2020 and 2021 was presented to Council for a first reading. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of Council for consideration.

Ordinance O-03-2023: An ordinance allowing the city to bill for the resurfacing of Wilbers Lane was presented to Council for a first reading. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of Council for consideration.

Executive Order EO-20-2022: An executive order appointing Lauren McIntosh as the city's representative to the NKY District Board of Health was presented to Council with no action necessary.

Executive Order EO-21-2022: An executive order establishing City Council Committees for the 2023-2024 calendar year was presented to Council with no action necessary.

Executive Order EO-01-2023: An executive order re-appointing Terry Webster as the Fairness Officer for the City was presented to Council with no action necessary.

Executive Order EO-02-2023: An executive order appointing Ken Bowman as the City's representative to the Campbell County Board of Appeals was presented to Council with no action necessary.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Ellison to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk