

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023**

Mayor Haas called the meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call:** Melissa Beckett, City Clerk, called the roll and the following Council members were present: Ben Pendery, Andy Ellison, Jeff Bezold, Adam Blau, and Eric Strange. Absent: Lauren McIntosh. 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, City Attorney Tim Schneider.

**Minutes**

**November 20, 2023:** The minutes from the November 20, 2023 meeting of council were presented for consideration. Motion by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Blau. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Visitors and Communications**

**Presentation of Sergeant Badge to Brandon Laffin:** Chief Casey Kilgore presented Brandon Laffin with his new badge promoting him to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Laffin spoke briefly and introduced his family. Mayor Haas thanked him for his service and congratulated him for his promotion.

**Presentation of Lieutenant Badge to Derek Faught:** Chief Casey Kilgore presented Derek Faught with his new badge promoting him to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Faught spoke briefly and introduced his family. Mayor Haas thanked him for his service and congratulated him for his promotion.

**Public Comment:**

Gary and Teresa Schmitt from 1 Highland addressed council regarding how much they love the building and their condo. Adam Blau thanked Mrs. Schmitt for curating the art exhibit at the open house at 1 Highland.

Jennifer Moore from 37 Beechwood addressed Council regarding a possible accident that could have occurred at the top of Tremont with an electric scooter. Mrs. Moore asked if the city would consider adding regulations to scooters such as lighting and helmet requirements. Chief Kilgore noted that he would talk to Matt Kremer regarding future considerations.

Joan Ferris from 66 Burney Lane addressed Council regarding the monologue from Dan Goman at the last meeting and that she does support Fort Thomas Business.

Joe Schwerling from 192 Holiday Lane addressed council regarding street safety.

Paula Bonomini from 18 Gunpowder Ridge addressed Council regarding One Highland and why there was negativity related to the building. She also mentioned that she supports Fort Thomas businesses.

Peggy Maggio from 37 S. Shaw Lane addressed Council regarding Dan Gorman's speech last month.

Adam Burkhart from 1427 N. Fort Thomas Avenue addressed council regarding fluoride in our water system and how it should be removed.

## **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. Bezold to receive and file the monthly report from the fire department. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Police Department Monthly Report: Chief Casey Kilgore:** Chief Kilgore presented his monthly report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Ellison to receive and file the monthly report from the police department. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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

- Ben Pendery will be re-appointed for OKI Board of Directors with Andy Ellison as an alternate.
- All of the play equipment has been removed from Tower Park and Prus Construction has been working diligently to get it done by the spring.
- The school has started track prep work today, this will be completed in two stages.
- Route 8 has been moving along well and the state is working on the uphill section. We are looking at May of 2024 for completion.

## **New Business**

Adam Blau mentioned that the Christmas walk was fantastic. He noted that there were two tree lightings and this was a little confusing for people.

The decorations were brought up and Mr. Blau would like to see the city contribute more funds to hire a company to do lights in the center of town. The city is looking into changes and additions in lighting for next year.

Mr. Blau also suggested looking into educating regarding social media pertaining to the algorithms to help with advertisement and getting more people to engage.

**Finance Committee Report of Disbursements:** The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 24638-24811 for the period of **November 18 – December 15, 2023.** A motion was made by Mr. Blau 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. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **Ordinances and Orders**

**Ordinance O-17-2023:** An ordinance amending the committees of council was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve ordinance O-17-2023. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Pendery, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Ordinance O-18-2023:** An ordinance amending the Tree Commission ordinance to require 5 members was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Pendery to approve ordinance O-18-2023. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Pendery, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Municipal Order MO-14-2023:** A municipal order appointing Ben Pendery to the OKI Board of Representatives with Andy Ellison as an alternate was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Pendery to approve municipal order MO-14-2023. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Pendery, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. The vote passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** With no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Pendery to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Eric Haas, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk