

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024**

With Mayor Haas absence, a motion was made by Mr. Blau and seconded by Mr. Ellison to appoint Eric Strange as Mayor Pro Tem for the meeting. Mr. Strange called the meeting 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: Lauren McIntosh, Ben Pendery, Andy Ellison, Jeff Bezold, Adam Blau, and Eric Strange. 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

February 20, 2024: The minutes from the February 20, 2024 meeting of council were presented for consideration. Motion by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Pendery. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Visitors and Communications:

FTBC Presentation: Nick Rolf with Gross Insurance and Jessica Hurley with Weichert Realtors addressed council regarding the Fort Thomas Business Council.

Vicki Fennell from 4 S. Shaw Lane addressed council regarding the Zoning Code update and she hopes that council is listening to their community.

Tiffany Huber from 26 Hawthorne addressed council regarding the Zoning Code update. She passed out a packet of information that is available in the office of the City Clerk.

Sharon MacKnight from 62 Miller Lane addressed council regarding the Zoning Code update. She also passed out a packet of information that is available in the office of the City Clerk.

Peggy Maggio from 37 S. Shaw Lane addressed council regarding the Zoning Code update. She passed out a packet of information that is available in the office of the City Clerk.

Mary Beth Sensel from 106 Delta Avenue addressed council regarding an accident with a bus that hit her car on February 29th.

Reports of Officers

Fire Department Monthly Report: Chief Chris Amon presented the monthly report for the Fire Department. A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mrs. McIntosh to receive and file the monthly report for the Fire Department. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Police Department Monthly Report: Chief Casey Kilgore presented the monthly report for the Police Department. A motion was made by Mrs. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Blau to receive and file the monthly report for the Police Department. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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

- There are 2 pieces of legislation (Municipal orders to re-appoint Dan Fehler to the Planning Commission and to re-appoint Jim Beineke to the Board of Adjustment) that were brought to Matt at the last minute. It was decided to table these orders until the next regular meeting of council.
- Staff has been working on their budgets and are in hopes of scheduling a Finance Committee meeting the week before the next council meeting. Staff is looking to have a first reading of the budget ordinance in May with approval in June.
- The Tower Park Playground is in full swing but are running about a month behind because of weather but will be open in some form by July 4th.
- Matt has been in contact with the Fort Thomas Swim Club regarding a land swap that the city will move forward with taking the original portion that was discussed and adding on a small parcel that already connects to Highland Park. Council was in agreement with this transaction.
- Discussion ensued regarding different types of zoning reviews by an outside company. Eric Strange has asked for a report from CT that looks at all of the major changes in the Zoning code update that have taken place to date. He is currently reviewing the draft that he received from CT before he passes it on to the full council. Andy Ellison would like to make sure that there is a public review period. Matt Kremer noted that there will be at least a month for residents to review the final document before it is voted on. Matt looked into companies that would do a legal review, this will cost between \$5,000 to \$25,000. Discussion regarding the review and direction on how to move forward with the zoning code update continued. Matt noted that he will get some additional quotes from outside consultants to review the changes in the code. Mr. Ellison also brought up when the Design Review Board ordinance was changed last year, the requirements to be on the DRB were also reviewed. Moving forward, Andy would like to change the paragraph to ensure that each member would need to have experience related to the board, preferably members with some sort of architectural background.

The borings for the Pickleball courts at Highland Park and Carlisle park have come in and Highland Park is a much better option for the courts. The estimate is a little over \$500K to have six courts and the parking lot installed. This estimate does not include lights due to the hours the courts will be opened and sound barriers will be included into the bid packet. Surfaces were discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Ellison and seconded by Mr. Blau to cap the budget for the pickleball courts at \$600K. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Pendery, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Strange, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- Deanna Beineke's book "From Peach Orchard to Park" is available at the museum and the city building. Lori Greis has donated her time to edit the book. Deanna has a book signing April

5th from 6 to 8 p.m. at Fort Thomas Coffee. This has been a long journey and she is very excited to get to this point and it has turned out very well.

- A section of Army Reserve Road is closed from River Road to Sergeant Ave. while crews complete work on it.
- The city received the \$125K grant for the skate park from the state but Matt knows very little about the grant and won't know much until the state gets back in contact with the city.

Finance Committee Report of Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 25036-25196 for the period of **February 9 – March 15, 2024.** A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Blau to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Pendery, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Strange, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- Mr. Blau asked that more information be put on the agendas so that the public has an idea of what is going to be discussed in the meeting.

Executive Session: Motion to adjourn into executive session was made by Mrs. McIntosh pursuant to KRS 61.810 (e), Collective bargaining negotiations between public employers and their employees or their representatives. It was seconded by Mr. Pendery. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

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 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk