

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**

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: Lauren McIntosh, Andy Ellison, Jeff Bezold, and Adam Blau. Absent: Ben Pendery and Eric Strange. 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.

Minutes: The minutes from the June 17, 2024 regular meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mrs. McIntosh to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Visitors and Communications:

Welcome New Police Recruit: Chief Casey Kilgore: Chief Kilgore welcomed new police recruit Jack Fields. He will attend the academy this fall and his badge number will be 4463. The mayor welcomed Jack and his family to the city team.

Fort Thomas Business Council: Christine Smalley with Fort Thomas Coffee and representing the Fort Thomas Business Council was present to provide an update on what has been going on with the business council. Christine discussed the upcoming meetings and events. GMS Therapy will have a ribbon cutting on July 25th and we welcome them to town.

Vickie Clements from 21 Toni Terrace was present regarding the construction of the soccer field by the Fort Thomas Independent School District and that residents cannot access the park without walking out onto River Road. She is concerned about children walking up River Road once school starts.

Steff Chalk from 21 Lafayette Ave. was present to address council regarding One Highland and the zoning code update. Vicki Fennell that was signed up to speak, gave her 5 minutes to Mr. Chalk.

Dan Gorman from 159 Tower Place was present to address council regarding potential accusations from Councilman Blau regarding One Highland. Discussion ensued between Mr. Gorman and Mr. Blau. Mr. Gorman asked Mr. Blau to file the investigation with the Board of Ethics to get this issue put to rest. Bill Lorenz that was signed up to speak, gave his 5 minutes to Mr. Gorman.

Joan Ferris from 66 Burney Lane addressed council regarding the zoning code update.

Peggy Maggio from 37 S. Shaw Lane addressed council regarding the zoning code update. Patti Hudepohl had signed up to speak, gave her 5 minutes to Mrs. Maggio.

Tiffany Huber from 26 Hawthorne Ave. addressed council regarding the zoning code update and asked to keep the density low.

Sharon MacKnight from 62 Miller Lane addressed council regarding the zoning code update.

Elizabeth Allegrini donated her time to Peggy Maggio. Peggy recommending bringing in a independent third party to look into what happened with One Highland.

P.J. Weidner from 60 Porters Lane donated his time to Dan Gorman to speak. Mr. Gorman stated that he did not mean to disparage anyone regarding One Highland.

Joan Ferris addressed council to clarify that the group of people in the audience were not a “cancer” and they go to One Highland on a regular basis.

Delora Eckerle from 17 Toni Terrace addressed council regarding the exit from the area behind the HHS Soccer Field and that it is dangerous. Something needs to be done before someone gets hit on River Road.

Reports of Officers

Fire Department Monthly Report: Chief Chris Amon presented the monthly report for the Fire Department. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Blau 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 Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mrs. McIntosh 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:

- The Tower Park Playground is open and everyone is very happy with the outcome.
- The fencing is being installed around the Pickleball courts in Highland Park.
- Rossford Avenue culvert/bridge is out for bid and will be received by the end of July.
- Route 8 is open and the city is still working with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet regarding River Road.
- Staff will be scheduling a Law, Labor, and License Committee meeting in the next month.
- Staff will be scheduling a Public Utilities and Buildings Committee meeting soon regarding adding LED bulbs to the streetlights throughout the city.
- Matt reviewed the legislation scheduled at the end of the meeting.

New Business

Dissolution of Pearson HOA: Residents of Pearson want to dissolve the HOA for their street. Once this is completed, Pearson Street will fall under the Historic Zoning Overlay proposed in the zoning code.

Adam Blau asked about the chairs that people put out for the parade and if there should be a policy on how soon they can block the sidewalks or right-of-ways. This issue will likely be referred to the Law, Labor, and License Committee.

Finance Committee Report of Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 25591-25738 for the period of **June 15 to July 12, 2024.** A motion was made by Mr. Ellison and seconded by Mrs. McIntosh to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions and Orders

Ordinance O-04-2024: Ordinance O-04-2024 was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mrs. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Ellison to approve Ordinance O-04-2024. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Municipal Order MO-20-2024: A municipal order re-appointing John Martin to the tree commission was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mrs. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Ellison to approve municipal order MO-20-2024. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Municipal Order MO-21-2024: A municipal order pertaining to the removal of certain items for city surplus. A motion was made by Mrs. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Blau to approve municipal order MO-21-2024. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: With no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Blau to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk