

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 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, Ben Pendery, Andy Ellison, Adam Blau, and Eric Strange. Absent: Jeff Bezold. 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 July 15, 2024 regular meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Strange and seconded by Mr. Ellison to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The minutes from the August 7, 2024 meeting of the Law, Labor and License Committee of council were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Pendery and seconded by Mr. Strange to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**Visitors and Communications:**

**Presentation of Captains Badge for Kyle Kaufman:** Chief Amon presented Captain Kyle Kaufman his Captains badge and congratulated him for his promotion. Kyle's wife, Nicole pinned his badge.

**Presentation of Lieutenant's Badge for Mike Strady:** Chief Amon presented Lieutenant Mike Strady with his Lieutenant's badge and congratulated him for his promotion. Mike's wife, Lisa pinned his badge.

**Presentation of Parade Winners:** Mayor Haas presented the parade winners with their trophies. The winners are as follows:

**Most Original:**

1st Place - Lot B Tailgate for the people by the people (Bengal Bus)

2nd Place - Lothar's Catering

3rd Place - CR Carving

**Most Entertaining:**

1st Place -Groove Crew of Greater Cincinnati

2nd Place - Ft. Thomas Jr. Cheerleading

3rd Place - Highland United Methodist Church (Lawnchair Drill Team)

### **Best Represents the Theme:**

1st Place - Heart of Worship Church

2nd Place - John R. Little VFW Post 3186

3rd Place - Bombers Baseball 7th & 9<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tie – McNamarah and Schaefer Families

**Fort Thomas Business Council:** Nick Rolf addressed council regarding the Fort Thomas Business Council. He reviewed upcoming events and ribbon cuttings.

### **Resident Comments:**

Terrill Biedenbarn from 22 Arno addressed council regarding some homes on N. Fort Thomas Avenue that are in disrepair, cars parking on the curbs by Tickle Pickle and parking on sidewalk and grass on Clover Ridge. He also asked who the company was that is working on the Zoning Code and how much it has cost the city.

Matt Lehman from Maple Avenue in Newport, KY addressed council. He is running as the Democratic candidate for State Representative for House Dist. 67.

Mike Leising from 102 Miller Lane addressed council regarding parking at the corner of Lumley Avenue and N. Fort Thomas Avenue. Mr. Leising would like to see a parking space removed to allow more site distance for people pulling out of Lumley Avenue. This matter will be discussed later in the meeting under New Business.

Steff Chalk from 21 Lafayette addressed council regarding the numbers and reasoning behind One Highland and the difficulty of the sale of the condominiums in the building.

Bob Waldenmeyer from 15 Elsmar Avenue addressed council regarding water that has been pooling in front of his house for years and asked when it would be addressed.

Vickie Clements from 21 Toni Terrace was present to address council regarding information on what is going on with the soccer complex that the Fort Thomas Independent Schools are building.

### **Reports of Officers**

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

- Matt received the Carlisle Park analysis and will be meeting with the KY. State Highway Department next week to discuss future plans.
- The public hearing and tax ordinance will be presented at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of council.
- Matt will be scheduling a meeting of the Public Utilities and Buildings prior to the next council meeting to discuss the LED Lighting program through Duke Energy.

- The public works department has been working in the Central Business District to clean up the sidewalks, pavers, and curbs.
- Matt reviewed the upcoming legislation.

### **Report from Committees**

**Report from the Law, Labor and License Committee:** Andy Ellison reported from the meeting of the Law, Labor and License Committee. Mr. Ellison reported that the first item on the agenda was the Design Review Board ordinance and it was decided that the committee would like to see the previous regulations reinstated in the ordinance.

The second item on the agenda was the Parks and Recreation Ordinance Update. This item will update Chapter 96.07B pertaining to races in the city parks which currently states that no races are permitted within park property. Matt Kremer is looking to change this to allow the races as long as a safety plan has been presented and approved by the City Administrator. The consensus of the board was to approve this change

The third item on the agenda was scooter safety. Matt feels this is a community issue, not a legislative issue. School Resource officers do training at the beginning and the end of the school year, the schools are also putting together a safety video for students. The city has developed a sign that says “Walk your Wheels” that will be placed in the business districts, school districts, and major crosswalks. The bike ordinance currently in place addresses most of the issues, it was noted that the city should add e-bikes and motor assisted vehicles to the ordinance. The licensing portion of this ordinance will be removed since the city does not do this anymore. In the materials that the school hands out, it should be strongly suggested that helmets should be worn for safety and also look at including the police department’s logo to push the point of safety. We are in hopes that this information will fall into the parents hands and they can educate their children on the safety of riding with a helmet and when and where to drive or walk their scooter.

### **New Business**

**Parking at the Top of Lumley Ave.:** Council discussed the removal of the parking space at the top of Lumley on N. Fort Thomas Avenue in front of Dave Walkenhorst Agency. It was decided that city staff would look at potentially freeing up approximately 7 feet by shifting all of the parking spaces up by 2 feet. This would improve the line of site when pulling out of Lumley Avenue.

**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-05-2024:** An ordinance amending the Personnel Pay and Classification Plan pertaining to police department salaries 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-06-2024:** An ordinance amending the Design Review Board ordinance 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-07-2027:** An ordinance related to racing on park property was presented to council for consideration. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

**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:**

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Eric Haas, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk