

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023**

Mayor Eric 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, Adam Blau, and Eric Strange. Absent: Ben Pendery. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Matt Kremer, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Police Chief Casey Kilgore, and City Attorney Tim Schneider.

**2023 Tax Rate Public Hearing:** Joe Ewald called the 2024 Tax Rate Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

The legal ad read as follows:

**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY  
TAX RATE INFORMATION - 2024**

Tax Rate Proposed for 2024	\$ .348/ \$100
Revenue Anticipated	6,521,558
Tax Rate Proposed for 2023	\$ .348/ \$100
Revenue Anticipated	6,392,970
Compensating Tax Rate 2024	\$ .342 / \$100
Revenue Anticipated	6,409,118
Revenue From New Property	\$ 25,435
Revenue From Personal Property	\$ 43,218

General Areas of Allocation:  
Personnel, Utilities, Supplies.

A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:00 P.M. at the City Building, 130 N. Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, KY. The purpose of this hearing is to receive taxpayer input on the proposed tax rate for 2024. This notice is required by KRS. 132.027, as passed by the KY General Assembly.

SIGNED:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk

With no comments from the audience, the tax hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the last meeting will be laid over to the September 16, 2024 meeting of council for consideration.

## **Visitors and Communications**

Elizabeth Allegrini from 45 Lockwood Place addressed council regarding making payments on tax bills and the process for foreclosure.

## **Reports of Committees**

**Report from the Public Utilities and Buildings Committee:** Eric Strange updated council on the meeting that took place prior to council. The committee met to discuss Duke's LED lighting program that the city may take advantage of. There are approximately 800 street lights throughout the city, one being a "cobra head light" and the other being a "post-top light". Changing to the LED program could save the city up to 50% on the city's Duke bill. The new LED lights will last approximately 20 years as opposed to 7 years. There are 2 different light options to consider and the city will also need to decide whether to pay the full charge up front or to make payments for 5 to 7 years. Another factor to consider is what time of the year to begin the program if it is approved. The representative for Duke, Mitch Eberenz will be gathering more up to date information related to cost and will bring this back to the full council for consideration.

## **New Business:**

Adam Blau called for council to adjourn in to executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810 (f) Discussions or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's, member's, or student's right to a public hearing if requested. This exception shall not be interpreted to permit discussion of general personnel matters in secret. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison.

The council reconvened.

Matt Kremer is asking council to approve a \$799,000 budget amendment that would purchase 9 new police cruisers and increase compensation for some employees of the city. A motion was made by Mrs. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Ellison to approve the proposed budget amendment. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting "no": none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **Ordinances and Orders**

**Ordinance O-05-2024:** An ordinance amending the personnel pay and classification plan was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mrs. McIntosh to approve ordinance O-05-2024. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting "no": none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Ordinance O-06-2024:** An ordinance amending the Design Review Board Ordinance was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Ellison and seconded by Mr. Strange to approve ordinance O-06-2024. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting "no": none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Ordinance O-07-2024:** An ordinance related to obtaining permission from the City Administrator before performing any types of races in the city parks was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Ellison to approve ordinance O-07-2024. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Blau, and Mr. Strange. Voting "no": none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Ordinance O-08-2024:** An ordinance establishing the 2024 Tax Rate 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-09-2024:** An ordinance repealing the Personnel Ordinance will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Municipal Order MO-24-2024:** A municipal order amending and re-adopting the city personnel manual will be tabled until the next meeting.

**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 7:57 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Eric Haas, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk