

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2016 in the Council Chambers of the city building. City Clerk, Melissa Kelly called the roll and the following council members were present: John Muller, Ken Bowman, Lisa Kelly, Jeff Bezold, Roger Peterman and Chuck Thompson. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Kelly, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, and Police Chief Mike Daly.

Mayor Eric Haas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the October 17, 2016 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Ms. Kelly to approve the minutes as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Visitors and Communications**

Mary Brown was in attendance to be recognized for her many years of service on city council and as Mayor. Her portrait was ceremonially placed on the wall with all the former mayors of Fort Thomas. Mayor Haas will be expressed his gratitude for her years of service and presented her with flowers

Sharon Shoemaker of 31 Bonnie Lane was present and addressed council. Mrs. Shoemaker is asking that the right-of-way at the bottom of Bonnie Lane be closed so that a building lot can be accessed. Mrs. Shoemaker had a interested buyer but because of the paper street, Pleasant, it could not be accessed unless it is closed. This item was on the Planning Commission agenda for October. It was the consensus of council to refer this matter back to staff.

Melissa Kelly, City Clerk read a letter for the record from Patricia Haney. The letter read as follows:

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Our mother, Ruth Scherrer, a life-long resident of Fort Thomas, lived at the Highlander Apartments for the last eight years. Mom passed away on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. She was ninety-five. Mom had an amazing ability, especially during the last year or so, to fall without injuring herself. However, she lacked the ability to get back up without help. The Fort Thomas Life Squad responded (via Life Alert) to her many calls for help. They always treated her with such kindness and respect. While my sister and brother both live in Fort Thomas, I live in Kansas City. Mom would always tell me how “sweet” and how “polite” and how “strong” they were.

While we understand that helping people is “just part of their job”, we are grateful that they never once treated Mom as “just part of their job”. They always spoke kindly, they were never impatient, and they even took the time to sit with her if a family member had not yet arrived. Know that we will always remember their tenderness toward our mom.

We want you to know that Mom was lucky to have them; so is Fort Thomas.

With Gratitude,

Patricia Scherrer Haney, Charleen Scherrer Roberts, and Danny Scherrer.

## **Reports of Officers**

**Fire Department Monthly Report: Chief Mark Bailey:** Chief Bailey presented his monthly report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Muller to receive and file the fire department’s monthly report. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Police Department Monthly Report: Chief Mike Daly:** Chief Daly presented his monthly report to council. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Bowman to receive and file the police department’s monthly report. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**City Administrator’s Report: Ron Dill:** Ron Dill did not have anything additional to report.

**2016 Capital Improvement Program Update:** Riegler Blacktop Co. completed work on all the streets in this year’s program, finishing before the end of October. The Public Works Committee of Council will perform the required public inspection of the improvements on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. The same committee will be scheduled to meet with staff in January to develop the 2017 program. The Waterworks Road pier wall construction performed by Smith Construction Co. was also completed this week with only final restoration remaining. This closes out the capital program adopted for this year.

**Tower Hill Pier Wall:** There is a preconstruction meeting scheduled for next Tuesday and Smith Construction Company will submit their work schedule. As indicated previously, this will require temporary closure of the street. The project should commence prior to the end of the year with an approximate three week construction period.

**Highland Park Ball field:** The work on renovation at Highland Park Ball Field is well underway. The exceptional Fall weather has allowed city crews to perform significant work including removal of fencing, grading of field, under drain installation in field, construction of the wall bordering the infield and work on replacement of the dugouts. Additionally they were able to construct the storm sewer main from the field and place all underground utilities, including relocation of the electric service. Mills Fencing Company has completed the majority of the fence installation including the 30’ high backstop fencing. The project is on schedule heading into winter with the “field area” essentially being complete.

**City Building Phone System:** An upgraded phone system will be installed in December that will provide greater efficiencies and better service delivery. The additional benefits other than

upgraded technology, faster internet and service efficiencies is that the other facilities (Armory, Community Center, Museum, and Tower Park Ball Field) will now be serviced through our central server and connected to the phone system at the city building. Previously, there was no connectivity to our computer system or phone system from any other city facilities.

**Holiday Walk:** The Holiday Walk will be held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and the tree at Inverness was placed today.

**Crosswalk Update:** At the intersection of Grand Avenue and Summit it was approved by KDOT to install a crosswalk sign that has a countdown of time that you have to get across the street before the light changes. Also, the new crosswalk signs that are to be installed at Moyer School have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible.

### **Old Business**

**VA Homes Update:** The Mayor and staff have been involved in a series of on-going meetings with the VA officials, consultants, utility providers and the developer (Bloomfield/Schon) regarding the necessary items that will allow this project to move forward. These meetings are on-going even today and on Monday. The VA is waiting on current estimates on abatement of lead paint and asbestos. The city is working toward a closing date at the beginning of next year. It will be late spring before we begin to see movement around the properties.

### **New Business**

**Consideration of MOA for Music Festival:** Debbie Buckley addressed council. The city has decided not to do a Merchants and Music festival in September this year. Instead we have a gentleman named Greg Mebs who is a band member of G. Miles and the Hitmen, is proposing to put on a blues fest with other genres of music included as well. Mr. Mebs owns a non profit organization that helps people in need. Most of the costs will be covered by Mr. Mebs organization, there will be small expense to the city. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Jeff Bezold to provide a summary of what the expenses for the city will be prior to approving the festival. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Consideration of Employee Health Insurance Plan:** Management staff and the Employee Insurance Committee, (with representation from the three union groups and administrative employees) worked with Carolyn Dean, our health insurance representative from Crawford Insurance, to evaluate options and providers. Through competitive bid, the overall package (health, dental, vision, life) resulted in a savings in premiums cost over the current calendar year. This is great news, however, it is important to note that this required a change of provider again and the renewal climate for our work unit has been significant with a quoted 50% increase from our current provider, Anthem. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve the proposed insurance plan for city employees as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Consideration of an Agreement with Sanitation District No. 1 – Grant Street Storm Drain:** The proposed agreement resulted from identifying that in heavy storm conditions, the inlet capacity is compromised and results in water spreading into the drive lane on the east side of the

street near this location. This condition represents a potential safety hazard for vehicular movement and also pushes water onto the sidewalk in one area. The proposed agreement would allow for construction of one additional storm sewer inlet, replacement of two additional inlets to current standards and approximately 60 feet of 12” storm pipe to connect into the exiting system. The project qualified under SD1’s 50//50 cost share policy and was approved by the SD1 Board of Directors at their last meeting. The total project cost is estimated at \$33,780 with the maximum \$16, 890 city contributions. This was quoted as contracted costs and the city will likely perform this work with General Services crews with significantly less out of pocket 3expense. The project will address city responsibility/liability within the right-of-way and should also assist with the resident flooding issue based on increased inlet capacity and additional pipe capacity storage. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve the agreement with Sanitation District No1 on Grant Street. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Consideration of Updated Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual:** The Law Labor and License Committee of Council will review this document at their committee meeting immediately prior to the council meeting. Staff has prepared an adopting ordinance if the committee is prepared to make a recommendation to the full council.

**Finance Committee Report on Disbursements:** The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 1119-1277 for the period of **October 18 – Novmeber 18, 2016.** A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Thompson to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye” – Mr. Muller, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Thompson. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders**

**Ordinance No. O-12-2016:** A first reading of an ordinance for adoption of a comprehensive update of the City’s Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual was presented to council. This item will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council for consideration.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Melissa K. Kelly, City Clerk