

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the city building. City Clerk, Melissa Beckett called the roll and the following council members were present: David Cameron, Ken Bowman, Mark Collier, Jeff Bezold, Roger Peterman and Adam Blau. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, Police Chief Casey Kilgore and City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden.

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

**Minutes**

The minutes from the March 18, 2019 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Collier and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve the minutes as written. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Visitors and Communications**

**ABC Hearing for Midway Café:** Joe Ewald opened the ABC public hearing for the application that has been received from the Midway Café and read the notice.

Application has been received from Dave & Matt, Inc. dba: Midway Café, 1017 South Fort Thomas Avenue, Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075, for a Quota Retail Package License. The applicant is the owner of the property to be licensed.

The application is on file in the office of the Director of Finance and will be finally considered at a Public Hearing during the Council meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Fort Thomas City Building Council Chambers.

No public comment was received. Local approval will be sent to the State of Kentucky.

**Bike Month:** Mayor Haas read a proclamation for Bike Month. Please see proclamation below:

**PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas**, the bicycle is an economical, healthful, convenient, and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent tool for recreation and enjoyment of Fort Thomas’s scenic beauty; and

**Whereas**, throughout the month of May, the residents of Fort Thomas and its visitors will experience the joys of bicycling through educational programs, bike tune-ups, slow-rides, commuting events, fitness awareness events, or by simply getting out and going for a ride; and

**Whereas**, Fort Thomas’s road and trail system attracts bicyclist each year, providing economic, health, transportation, and scenic benefits; and

**Whereas**, creating a bicycling-friendly community has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, improving traffic safety, and supporting student learning outcomes;

**Whereas**, the League of American Bicyclists, many neighboring cities, local bicycle organizations, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, public health districts, hospitals, companies and civic groups will be promoting bicycling during the month of May 2019; and

**Whereas**, the City of Fort Thomas wants to promote greater public awareness of bicycle operation and safety education in an effort to reduce collisions and injuries, and improve health and safety for everyone on our streets; and

Now therefore, I, Eric Haas, Mayor of the City of Fort Thomas, KY, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as

### **BIKE MONTH**

in Fort Thomas, KY, and I urge all residents to join me in this special observance.

Given under my hand on this, the 15th day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.

Signed:

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Eric Haas, Mayor

**Letter from Residents:** A letter was read for the record from Caroline Eagen and Mya Lipniskis regarding adding a crosswalk at the intersection of Highland and Washington Avenues. Ron Dill noted that adding a crosswalk at that intersection doesn't necessarily create a safer environment and there are not intersecting streets at that location. The city could have the engineer look at this. Another alternative would be to create it at the intersecting point closer to the Fort Thomas Library.

Keith Gillis of 66 Sweetbriar addressed council. Mr. Gillis talked about stop sign safety and encouraged council and the police to look into how to stop people from rolling through stop signs. He has almost been hit several times in a crosswalk. He suggested putting out a campaign for coming to a complete stop at a stop sign and potentially adding a note under the stop signs that gives the ticket price for rolling through a stop sign. Mayor Haas noted that the city is working on this with the crosswalks and we can add to the program. Ron Dill noted that it is always good for the community to refresh on these issues and the city has recently commissioned a traffic control officer through the police department.

Bonita Frentzel addressed council. She noted that she was at her son's house on Glenway and noticed that the first sidewalk on the right hand side going South on S. Ft. Thomas Ave., where there is currently a crosswalk had a car parked right up to the crosswalk. She suggested painting the curb so that people can't park right up to the crosswalk.

### **Reports of Officers**

**Fire Department Monthly Report for February 2019:** Chief Bailey presented his monthly report for February to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to receive and file the fire department's monthly report. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Police Department Monthly Report for February 2019:** Chief Kilgore presented his monthly report for February to council. Mr. Bezold noted that he appreciates the work the police department have done helping with the transition from Johnson School to the new location at Highlands. The FTPD trailed the school buses the first few days.

Mr. Cameron noted that since we are on the topic of pedestrian safety, he noticed that the city has written a lot more tickets in the recent months and asked for Chief Kilgore to comment on this. Chief Kilgore indicated that the new traffic officer does write a lot of tickets. There are also grant cycles that can affect this, for example DUI and speeding grants.

A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau to receive and file the police department's monthly report. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **City Administrators Report**

**Pedestrian Safety Initiative:** Staff is very pleased to report that the installation of the crosswalk beacon at the crosswalk in front of Highlands High School was installed over their Spring Break. The remaining two locations (St Thomas and HHS Middle School) will be completed over the summer and before school resumes in August.

**US 27/I-471 Interchange reconstruction/median upgrades:** Staff is working with the KYTC and the City of Southgate to coordinate certain improvements as part of this project. KYTC is rebuilding/replacing the concrete portion of US27 that is adjacent & under I-471. In conjunction with this project, the two cities are working with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to provide new curbing & backfill medians with topsoil/sod. Additionally, the cities are working together to plan the placement of landscaping/trees in conformance with KYTC standards.

**Memorial Parkway Icing Condition Update:** Staff has recently met with representatives from KDOT District 6, Wessels Development & their contractor/engineer on-site to review the issue of water entering/freezing on the roadway near Overlook Apts. The city initiated this meeting and coordinated attendees and topic. KDOT will be reviewing their approval documents to determine compliance. A contributing issue with a clogged storm sewer under Memorial was addressed this week. Additionally, alternatives to alleviate drainage from the roadway were discussed. These parties will be re-convening in the next couple of weeks to formulate a plan of action and timing & responsibility for addressing the issues. Discussion ensued with council regarding their concern with this issue. Mr. Dill indicated that it will be continually pursued and he will keep council updated on this matter.

**Alexander Circle/Tower Park:** The contractor at Alexander Circle is progressing well. They are completing sanitary sewer installation and water main completion should be completed by the end of April. Rehabilitation of the structures is progressing and they are still working toward first occupancies in July. The city is currently accepting bids for the re-grading necessary to begin the realignment of Cochran/Alexander Circle and the parking lot adjacent to the Mess Hall. This work is scheduled to begin in May.

**Johnson Elementary:** The city has worked closely with the Fort Thomas Independent School District with the transition of Johnson students to the HHS campus. There have been no issues to date. Our Police & Fire Departments have been on-site assisting and have done a great job in this transition. We will be reaching out to residents to coordinate logistics in and around the Johnson site on N. Ft. Thomas Ave. There will be need for temporary parking and sidewalk restrictions during construction.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Business Incentive Program: Grow Program – Debbie Buckley:** Debbie Buckley addressed council regarding the new grant incentive program. Debbie thanked council and the Renaissance Board for all of their help with the program. She thinks this will greatly help the businesses. The grant is broken into two façade grant opportunities. “Grow a Little” for a grant up to \$10,000 or “Grow a Lot” for a grant up to \$20,000. Mr. Peterman asked about the grant funding being disbursed after the work is completed and asked if it would hurt participation with the businesses not being able to come up with the money. Debbie is concerned with the money not being paid back after the job is completed. There was discussion regarding requiring a final inspection as part of receiving the grant monies (if it is a partial improvement) that maybe should be revised to say when the work is completed. Debbie will make several changes to the forms and this will be posted on the website soon.

Mr. Peterman made a motion to approve the business incentive program substantially in this form with the minor changes. It was seconded by Mr. Bezold. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **New Business**

**Fire Department 2018 Annual Report: Chief Mark Bailey:** Chief Mark Bailey presented his 2018 Annual Report to council.

**Police Department 2018 Annual Report: Chief Casey Kilgore:** Chief Casey Kilgore presented his 2018 Annual Report to council.

**Consideration of 2019 Street Resurfacing Program: Report from the Public Works Committee:** Ken Bowman reported that a public hearing was held by the Public Works Committee on Tuesday March 26, 2019. The Ordinance for “intent to proceed” has been prepared and placed on the agenda for consideration and first reading. The recommendation of the Public Works Committee of Council is as follows:

Honorable Mayor and Board of Council:

We the undersigned members of the Public Works Committee of Council hereby report that a public hearing was conducted on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 regarding the city’s proposed 2019 street resurfacing program. The 2019 street resurfacing program consists of the following streets:

**Fairview Place  
Grant Street  
Ohio Avenue  
N Ft Thomas Avenue (Covert Run to Corp. line)  
Ridgeway Avenue  
Sherman Avenue  
Sheridan Avenue  
Vernon Lane (E,S,W)**

Committee members and staff conducted the hearing, which was attended by approximately fifty-five (55) residents and property owners, thirteen (13) of which addressed the committee. Three hundred forty-five (345) properties are being assessed, so less than 1% of affected property owners spoke at the public

hearing. Generally speaking, there was support for the proposed improvements outlined within the attached Engineer's Comprehensive Report. Several asked questions specific to deteriorated conditions or drainage issues on their streets/sidewalks. Some asked questions about timeframe for completion. Two residents with corner lots requested relief from their potential large assessments. Two residents from Grant Street requested that a section of the street be designated 60/40 split. Three residents questioned the assessment process and whether another method is feasible. There was also a request to consider an additional provision for deferred payments for seniors. Generally, questions were addressed at the hearing and staff will provide follow-up to other issues discussed.

Based upon the results of the public hearing the Public Works Committee of Council hereby recommends that the city proceed with the street resurfacing improvements as proposed; and that the Board of Council authorize the first reading of the Ordinance acknowledging the city's intent to proceed with the project.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Ken Bowman, Chairman

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Jeff Bezold, member

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Adam Blau, member

A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Cameron to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Rossford Conservation Easement:** The Fort Thomas Conservancy submitted a letter dated March 20, 2019, offering the conservation easement granted to them back to the city under the terms of the easement (Section 2 *Reserved Rights* –H). This is an amicable request to allow the city to address several issues that could not be addressed under this agreement. Specifically, there is an on-going erosion concern, several property encroachments and an invasive species encroachment that are items outside the prevue of the conservation easement. The intention is that the city will accept the responsibility for addressing these items. The conservancy and city staff has worked closely in evaluating and monitoring these situations and are in agreement that this is the best approach moving forward. The conservancy will continue to be a partner with this area of Rossford Park in the future. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve the release of the conservation easement for Rossford Park currently held by the Fort Thomas Forest Conservancy to the City of Fort Thomas. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye" - Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting "no"- none. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Report from the Public Safety Committee:** The Public Safety Committee met prior to the city council meeting to discuss a grievance filed by AFSCME. It was the consensus of the committee to deny the request. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to accept the report from the Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Collier noted that since he was not in the meeting he would like more information regarding the grievance prior to voting. Mr. Dill gave an overview of the issue.

Upon call of the roll, the following members voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Greiwe Development Update:** Mayor Haas received an email from Greiwe Development regarding the discussion of financing with the city if the development plan is approved by the Planning Commission. Council showed interest in referring this matter to the Committee of the Whole. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to refer this matter meet with the developer to the Committee of the Whole if the development plan passes. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye” - Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no”- none. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Public Works Committee Report:** Adam Blau requested to return to the topic of the report from the Public Works Committee. Mayor Haas and Ron Dill explained the process for reporting from to committees to council. Mr. Blau wanted to “initiate” discussion from the committee meeting regarding the 60%-40% policy as it related to Grant Street. Ken Bowman explained that there was no rationale to a 60/40 split because there are no studies indicating an increase in traffic, particularly after the internal loop on the Woodfill site was constructed. Mr. Blau disagreed and noted that in the past all vehicles used Grant Street and if there wasn’t a school there, the traffic would be less. Mr. Bezold noted that there is no baseline to support this change. It was discussed further with reference to precedence for other streets to be considered based off proximity to schools and noted that changes to this program would delay work. It was the consensus of the council to proceed with the recommended plan for 2019.

**Finance Committee Report of Disbursements:** The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 5336-5552 for the period of **March 1 – April 11, 2019** was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders**

**Ordinance O-03-2019:** Ordinance O-03-2019, adopting the Uniform Residential Landlord Act (URLTA) in accordance with KY Revised Statute was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau to approve ordinance O-03-2019. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Ordinance O-04-2019:** First Reading of an Ordinance revising procedures for Promotion of Police Lieutenants and Sergeants. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council.

**Ordinance O-05-2019:** First Reading of an Ordinance establishing the city’s intent to proceed with the 2019 Street Resurfacing Program. The contents of the Ordinance comply with the recommendations from the Public Works Committee and City Engineer. The streets in this program are Fairview Place, Grant Street, Sherman Avenue, Sheridan Avenue, Ohio Avenue, Ridgeway Avenue, N.Ft Thomas Ave. (Covert to Lincoln Road) and Vernon Lane (E/W/S). This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting of council.

**Municipal Order MO- 02-2019:** A Municipal Order re-appointing Dan Fehler to a four year term on the Fort Thomas Planning Commission was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve Municipal Order MO-02-2019. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Executive Order EO-03-2019:** An Executive Order appointing Joseph Michael Reichenbach to the position of Police Officer Recruit in the Fort Thomas Police Department was presented to council with no action necessary.

With no further business to come before council, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

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Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk