

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018 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, Lisa Kelly, Jeff Bezold, Roger Peterman and John Slawter. Staff members in attendance included: City Administrative Officer Ron Dill, City Clerk Melissa Kelly, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Joe Ewald, Fire Chief Mark Bailey, and Police Chief Casey Kilgore, and City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden.

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

Minutes

The minutes from the September 4, 2018 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold 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, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Visitors and Communications

Ms. Kelly Kanellis of 167 Clover Ridge addressed council. Ms. Kanellis purchased her home in June of 2016 and since then the basement has flooded with five feet of water in driveway and two feet of water in the house. She has contacted Sanitation District No. 1 and was told it was a city issue. Ms. Kanellis is asking for help from the city to re-design the sidewalk so that water does not come into her house. Ron Dill indicated that there was a study done by the city’s engineers in 2003 and had called Ms. Kanellis and never received a return call from her to explain the study. The city invested 30K to the storm sewer system after receiving the report. Since it has not been looked at recently, the city will revisit. Mr. Dill indicated that SD1 has a new program that may help with this issue. Ken Bowman asked what the solution would be to remedy this problem. Ron Dill noted that grates could be installed in the sidewalk or look into a trench drain as well. Ron Dill will arrange a meeting on site in the near future.

Jimmy Guerra of 1 Trevilla Court addressed council. Mr. Guerra is the HOA president of Villa Grande Development. Mr. Guerra is asking for consideration to add sidewalks outside of the community on Chesapeake Avenue. There are 106 residents but very little walking access to the rest of Fort Thomas or Newport.

Ron Dill indicated that in the updated comprehensive plan there is a section that is dedicated to transportation and connectivity. There are 4 longer runs that have been specifically identified as priority locations and the city looks at these when grants and outside funding becomes available but this location is on the city’s radar. David Cameron asked how the city identifies funding for these projects. Ron Dill noted that these are Federal programs that run in 2 year cycles and the city is on listings for mailings for these grants that will be reported through committees of council.

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

Police Department Monthly Report for August: Chief Casey Kilgore: Chief Kilgore presented the monthly report for May to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold 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. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

City Administrators Report

Visioning/Community Plan Schedule: The *Goals & Objectives* portion of the Comprehensive Plan update have been forwarded to the Planning Commission for review. They will be conducting a public hearing on Wednesday September 26th at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers and will follow with recommendation to Council. They will also be reviewing the entire update draft document with staff & consulting team after the public hearing. Next steps will be to schedule a public hearing for the plan to be presented to the public with the Planning Commission review and recommendation to follow.

Law Labor License Committee Meeting: Staff has initiate review of our advertising procedures in preparation of reporting to committee. Ron Dill was recently approached by a Graduate student group from NKU Executive Leadership and Organizational Change class who were looking for a project topic. After offering several possible projects centered on our visioning topics and current issues, they focused in on the topic of communications to the community. Their semester project is to serve as a "consultant" for an agency to provide research, background and recommendations on a particular project. Mayor Haas and Ron Dill agreed that their efforts could prove beneficial in our approach to this topic. Their project timeframe requires that they report to their class in late October and we will potentially schedule our committee to review in November.

Employee Health Insurance Options: As reported in Finance Committee during development of the 2018/19 Budget, staff would be reviewing options for providing employee health care benefits and this review would include the possibility of shifting to a self funding option that is common in surrounding communities. Over the last nine months, Joe Ewald and Ron Dill have researched self funding through attendance in seminars, review of documentation/studies of the topic, meeting with program administrators from other NKY cities and interviewing potential service providers for self funded plans. Their findings have consistently led to recommend moving forward with this option for our next renewal period.

Within the last five years, the city has experienced an increase as high as 12.55% to our premiums and added \$259,644 in expenditures since 2013 to provide employee healthcare. In this same period we have also experienced an annual reduction in the quality of the plan (i.e increased deductibles, prescription, and co-pays), change in providers to manage cost (three providers in last four years) and employee contributions added to offset increased costs.

As we have evaluated rising expenditures each year under a fully funded plan, we have continually found that the city, our representative insurance agent and to a large extent the employee group, has very little control over cost factors that drive the annual increases. The HIPPA standards and other federal regulations do not allow us access to information that would be useful for cost management. The city "Employee Insurance Committee" that makes annual recommendations for insurance plans, per our union working agreements, has expressed support of moving to a self-funded plan.

Fire Department Chaplain: Mayor Haas and Ron Dill have been working with the Fire Department to develop a Fire Chaplain position to support our department. The position is a volunteer based position but does require certain qualifications and expectations. Ken Clift, retired Ft Thomas FF/P has agreed to serve in this role. This is a great opportunity to provide another means of support for our FD staff in the event

of critical incidents. Ken Clift addressed council. Mr. Clift was on the Fort Thomas Fire Department 15 years ago. He thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him this opportunity.

Alexander Circle: The Northern Kentucky Water District has accepted a low bid from JNT Construction for the water main replacement into the project. The contract totaled \$290,641.60 with the city cost share amount totaling \$138,595.80 which is below the \$142,000 cost estimate in the approved inter-local agreement. This cost will be reimbursed to the city from the developer.

Other Updates: Pentland Place water main project has been completed and resurfacing will begin in a couple of weeks. The Burnet Ridge stabilization project has been completed. The city has spoken to the Transportation Cabinet regarding the crosswalk beacons and they are considering approving the permits to allow installation of these at the schools. City crews will install the beacons.

New Business

Consideration of Interlocal Agreement for “Expanded Jurisdiction” Building Inspections: Campbell County Fiscal Court, Department of Building Inspection staff has forwarded an inter-local agreement that would allow their department to perform plan review and building inspection on projects that were typically under the jurisdiction of the KY Department of Housing, Buildings & Construction (DHBC). It is defined by statute that the DHBC maintains authority of certain projects (dependent on size & use of the structure) in any city unless the city petitions and is granted “Expanded Jurisdiction” through the DHBC. Traditionally, the City of Fort Thomas has not petitioned for expanded jurisdiction due to personnel needs and expertise required to perform this type of service. The inter-local agreement would allow the Campbell County Fiscal Court Inspections office to petition the DHBC for expanded jurisdiction for projects located within the City of Fort Thomas. They would perform all functions related to plan review, permit issuance, inspection and fee collection for all these projects. Additionally, the agreement provides terms for occasions when the city may contract directly for inspection services for projects under local jurisdiction.

Currently the DHBC performs plan review & inspection for these types of projects located within the city. The change in jurisdiction would bring more local control to the process including timeliness for issuance of permits and better service in scheduling inspections. Often times the turnover for plan reviews in Frankfort are in excess of thirty days and field inspectors have jurisdiction over up to ten counties. Campbell County inspectors are equally qualified and our building inspector has a working relationship with their staff. This is a revenue neutral, enhanced service consideration; staff recommends approval. A resolution will be read later in the meeting regarding this item.

Old Business

Veterans Day Event: The Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Charters of Freedom in Tower Park on Saturday, November 10th at noon.

Finance Committee Report on Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 4418-4506 for the period of **September 4 – September 13, 2018** was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Bowman to concur in the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders

Ordinance O-24-2018: An ordinance establishing the 2018 Tax Rate for the City of Fort Thomas was presented to council for a first and second reading. The City intended to have its Public Hearing on the tax rate on September 4, 2018 and a first reading of the Ordinance establishing the tax rate on September 4, 2018 and a second reading on September 17, 2018. The City mails its real estate tax bill no later than the end of September each year since the due date of the City tax bill is October 31st. The City requested the notices of publication to be printed on August 16 and August 23 in the Campbell County Recorder; however, Gannett published them in the Cincinnati Enquirer. As a result, the City had to advertise in the Campbell County Recorder on August 30, 2018 and September 6, 2018 and postpone the Public Hearing until September 17, 2018. In order to mail the City tax bills timely, this Ordinance shall be read on September 17, 2018. For the reasons set forth above, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and the provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by a vote of two-thirds or more of the legislative body. The requirements of a second reading are suspended due to the emergency. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Peterman to approve Ordinance O-24-2018. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no”: Lisa Kelly. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Executive Order EO-14-2018: An executive order appointing Michael Wright to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic Grade 3B was presented to council with no action necessary.

Resolution R-07-2018: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Campbell County Fiscal Court for certain building inspection services was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve Resolution R-07-2018. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote

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

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk