

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2017 in the Council Chambers of the city building. City Clerk, Melissa Kelly 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, 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 September 5, 2017 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman with amendments. 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.

The minutes from the 2017 Tax Rate Public Hearing were presented to council for consideration. Mr. Peterman indicated that per KRS statute, the tax rate hearing was advertised in the Fort Thomas Recorder. There were no residents present at the meeting. Mr. Peterman also noted that at this point in the process, approving this tax rate becomes more of an administrative act. This tax rate was considered when the Finance Committee of Council reviewed and the council approved the budget. The revenues help to balance the budget and help with potential increases to pension; insurance, etc. He added that, instead of reducing the rate, the council could discuss lowering other costs for residents such as the occupational licensing fee. Mr. Peterman feels that the property tax is a fair and reliable resource for city needs. "It has been my experience that we run pretty efficiently here. We don't have a big staff, and the staff we have works very hard, including the people in public safety and public works. We operate well." A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to approve the minutes from the 2017 Tax Rate Hearing. Upon call of the roll, the following voted "aye": Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting "no": none. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ken Bowman noted that he had sent an email regarding the Band of Helping Hands event on Saturday to see how many people would be attending the Paul Thorne portion of the event.

Reports of Officers

Fire Department Monthly Report for August: Chief Mark Bailey: Chief Bailey presented his monthly report for August to council. Chief Bailey noted that October is Fire Prevention month. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman 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 Mike Daly: Chief Daly presented his monthly report for August to council. Mr. Peterman noted that the report was very well written and thorough and he appreciates that. 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, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Slawter. Voting "no" none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

City Administrator's Report: Ron Dill:

Riverfront Trail Grant Award: The city received the official notification of the grant award for the trail segment on the city-owned property along the riverfront, north of Tower Hill Road. Staff will proceed with fulfilling the program requirements to initiate this project. It is anticipated that the construction for this project would occur next summer.

Traffic studies: Mr. Dill shared a conference call with the traffic engineer from CT Consultants last week. In light of some of the recent requests and mention of speed limits, etc. Mr. Dill is looking at perhaps having some general discussion regarding speeding, posted speed limits, traffic control devices, on-street parking standards from our engineer that may help guide consideration of these types of requests. The city does have some adopted policies and we will be reviewing and relating this information to council at a subsequent meeting. In the interim, we will be providing research & report of the specific requests as the information becomes available. Residents in attendance in August requesting specific review in their neighborhood have been notified that this topic will be placed on our October 16th meeting agenda.

The Jared Lorenzen Project: The city is working with the producers of this project to facilitate the hosting of this program. Mr. Dill reviewed the scope of the project for council. Jared Lorenzen, (resident/former NFL QB) is headlining a television documentary of his efforts to overcome obesity. This show will document and air his progress over the next year and will be filmed around the state & country but will be based in Ft Thomas. The city will be coupling a citywide exercise program through our Recreation Dept. that will dovetail the concept of exercise and healthy lifestyle choices. Sharing our facilities, specifically the armory and select locations in Tower Park, will be the setting where exercise sessions take place that will include our residents who desire to join in. The program includes affiliation with the non-profit "Now Let's Get Fit" with a primary goal of overcoming obesity in this country. Mr. Dill noted that this is a great opportunity to engage our residents in our exercise program, partner with another compatible project, and showcase our community. The kick-off event will be held in Tower Park on October 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fire Department Restroom Remodel Project: This project was recently completed and accepted by the city. It was initiated in the last budget year however, there were issues that ran the project past deadlines. Deficiencies in workmanship have been corrected and the facilities are back in full use. Ron thanked Kevin Barbian and the architect for keeping up with the project.

V.A. Homes Update: The city is waiting on the return of the IRB that was submitted to the state. City staff and the developer have met and are working hard so everyone is ready once the property is transferred. The city is anticipating on closing in sixty to ninety days. The city is also looking into a media day and other opportunities before the developer begins construction on the property.

The kick-off meeting for the visioning process is Monday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

New Business

Law, Labor, and License Committee Report: Mr. Cameron reported that the Law, Labor, and License Committee of council met prior to the council meeting to discuss a request from a resident on Ohio Avenue to amend the current chicken coop ordinance to allow coops to sit closer to the neighboring structure than the current distance of 50 ft. It was determined that the city could not make an “exception” for this property owner and not others. The committee reviewed other cities ordinances and rules for chickens. Due to the potential smell and noise, it was noted that 50 feet or more from the property line is the general rule. After reviewing the ordinance and the request, it was the consensus of the committee to keep the ordinance as it currently reads. The property owner may have the option to move the coop under their deck which would put them in compliance with the ordinance. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to accept the recommendation from the Law, Labor, and License 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 a unanimous vote.

Finance Committee Report on Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 2640-2727 for the period of **September 1 – 18, 2017.** 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, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Slawter. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders

Ordinance O-09-2017: An ordinance establishing the 2017 Property Tax Rate was presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve ordinance O-09-2017. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman and Mr. Cameron. Voting “no”: Mr. Bowman and Ms. Kelly. The motion passed by a vote of 4-2.

Ordinance O-10-2017: An ordinance establishing waste fee rates was presented to council for an emergency reading. The waste fees are included on the tax bills. Due to the fact that the city intends to mail its tax bills on September 22, 2017, to require a second reading and publication of this ordinance would result in a delay of the mailing of the tax bills and inconvenience property owners. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Cameron to approve ordinance O-10-2017. 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 a unanimous vote.

Resolution R-06-2017: A Resolution authorizing transfer of property between the City and Donald & Lisa Gibson located at the rear of 67 Mel Lawn and authorizing the Mayor to sign the deed and other documents related to this transfer was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Slawter and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve resolution R-06-2017. 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 a unanimous vote.

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

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk