

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS,
CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

Budget Hearing: The Budget Hearing was opened at 6:45 p.m. Mayor Haas read the budget message and called for comments from the public.

Elizabeth Allegrini of 45 Lockwood Place addressed council. Ms. Allegrini asked if the city had looked into cutting jobs to allow some more “wobble” room in the budget. Ron Dill noted that the city has eliminated and consolidated positions in the past. The city did not contemplate any changes with the employees. Ms. Allegrini asked what the plans were for Highland Park. Ron Dill said that the plan was discussed at the last council meeting. The committee has not made a formal recommendation for that portion of the park. There is nothing specifically allotted to the Highland Park project in this current budget. Ms. Allegrini asked how much in reserves that the city will have in the 2020/2021 budget. Joe Ewald noted that it is about 7.1 million in reserves.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

7:00 p.m. Liquor License Public Hearing: NK Beverage LLC dba Deps Wine and Spirits, 424 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas, KY 41075, has applied for a Quota Retail Drink, Quota Retail Package, NQ-4 Malt Beverage Drink and NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package license. With no public comment, the application was approved and will be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control on Tuesday, June 16th.

Mayor Eric Haas called the meeting of council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020 via Zoom teleconference. 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, and City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 1, 2020 meeting were presented to council for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Blau 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.

Letters and Correspondence: City Clerk, Melissa Beckett read into the record several letters from businesses and residents. These letters consisted of one from SafeShip, Fort Thomas Florist, The Cookie Shop, and Connect Counseling, all regarding the funds given to businesses from the Grow Grant. Another letter was received from a resident named Colin from 22 Glenway Avenue. This letter was regarding the construction at the corner of N. Fort Thomas and Highland Avenue.

Ken Bowman noted that around the armory and mess hall there are bait stations and because of the food chain, it is killing other animals. He is in hopes that we can resolve this issue soon. Ron Dill noted that we can look at this issue.

Reports of Officers

City Administrators Report:

Legislative Update: There were a few significant items that impact our community in the Legislative Update. As previously reported HB484 re-structures CERS representation on the pension board which could have great benefit to cities/counties moving forward.

One item for consideration is HB382 that changes the provision for golf carts to be permitted on streets to extend to “sunset to sunrise”. Our ordinance defers to state statute so unless we take action to contrary, this will be a matter of law on July 15th. Mr. Bezold noted that the feedback that he has received from residents is in favor of being able to use them at night. Mayor Haas noted that we should make our ordinance match the state law. Mr. Bezold also indicated that he has received feedback from residents regarding the age limit. He said that some of the parents would like to allow their kids (16 or older) to drive them to school. Mr. Collier indicated that the Law Labor and License committee were pretty adamant to keep the age at 19 and we should keep it 19 for now.

TANK redesign update: The final version of the TANK redesign has been submitted and is pending funding approval from the county Fiscal Courts (Boone, Kenton, and Campbell). As reported previously, the redesign was not favorable to the existing Fort Thomas routes: #11 eliminated and #16 stops at St. Elizabeth. The city administration participated in all the forums, submitted letters, and met individually with the managers at TANK to advocate for Fort Thomas routes including altering times and route paths. Obviously, these alternatives did not match the final design parameters that include ridership, cost per trip, overall budget, etc. Mr. Cameron asked if any alternatives were discussed. Mr. Dill noted that TANK had talked about doing other types of transportation, but at this time it is not feasible for them. Mayor Haas noted that he was impressed by TANK’s willingness to listen and consider other alternatives. Mr. Collier asked if the city would be able to petition for those affected by removal of the bus routes. The funding is next week so residents could petition to the fiscal court but the city would not be involved.

St Elizabeth Partnership/Contribution: An exciting update from the Implementation plan is that St. Elizabeth has agreed to be a sponsor for the installation of the Exercise Stations in Rossford Park. They are committing to cover 50% of the cost for equipment & installation for the three stations designed in that park. As you recall, this was an item that we discussed implementing when we had a sponsor/partner. Equipment is being ordered for installation ASAP.

4th of July: The city is not able to move forward with many items due to Covid 19. The city asked the 4th of July committee to look at other items that we could share with the residents on the 4th. They came up with a house decorating and talent contest with prizes. The fireworks will be shot from Highland, Rossford, and Tower Parks so that people can watch them from their homes. Ron thanked the committee for their work on this for our community.

Tower Park: The city has had meetings with the teams that use the ballfields and they are not going to be using the fields so the city will move forward with this project. The Highland Park ballfield looks very nice with the artificial turf that was installed.

New Business

Consideration of Addendum to the One Highland Development Agreement:

After completion of excavation, this project has been delayed from starting construction of the building due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, specifically related to their pending bond issuance and potential

interruption in construction schedule. The developer is currently finalizing the bond issuance that will permit construction to commence in about thirty (30) days.

There was a first addendum to the Development Agreement in December 2019 that dealt with the issue of timing and this addendum similarly addresses timing issues/dates due to delay. The proposed amendments do not change any other issues related to the project. Discussion ensued with council regarding the agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Bezold and seconded by Mr. Bowman to approve the addendum to the development agreement. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold and Mr. Peterman. Voting “no”: Mr. Blau. Abstained: Mr. Collier. The motion passed by a vote of 4 in favor.

Consideration of Addendum to the PILOT Agreement for the One Highland Project: This document is modified to create the payment process to the city directly (instead of a trustee) and the collection schedule adjusted to match the city’s property tax collection process & timeline. Jim Parsons was in attendance and explained how the pilot agreement and the collection of taxes process works. Mayor Haas noted that he liked this process because it makes the process easier for the condo owners. Discussion ensued regarding the pilot agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve the addendum to the Pilot agreement. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Peterman. Abstained: Mr. Blau. The motion passed by a vote of 5 in favor.

Consideration of Bond Issuance – One Highland Project: This approval was completed at the Council meeting on February 18, 2020, however, the bonds were not issued as the COVID pandemic delayed start of the project. A resolution will be read later in the meeting that would authorize the restructured bond make-up that would finance the project. The city owns no obligation for this bond debt. Mr. Parsons explained the provisions with the bond issuance.

Finance Committee Report of Disbursements: The Finance Committee presented its Report of Disbursements and recommended the payment of warrants numbered 7646-7764 for the period of **May 15, 2020 to June 11, 2020** 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. Peterman, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Orders

Ordinance No. O-05-2020: Consideration of an ordinance for the adoption of the 2019 supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fort Thomas was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Collier to approve ordinance O-05-2020. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. O-06-2020: Consideration of an ordinance amending the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve ordinance O-06-2020. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. O-07-2020: Consideration of an ordinance adopting the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve ordinance O-07-2020. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bezold, Mr. Peterman, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no”: Mr. Collier. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Resolution No. R-03-2020: A Resolution authorizing issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds to for the One Highland Project was presented to council. A motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Peterman to approve Resolution R-03-2020. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Bezold and Mr. Peterman. Abstained: Mr. Blau. The motion passed by a vote of 5 in favor.

Municipal Order MO-17-2020: A Municipal Order appointing Jann Seidenfaden to serve as City Attorney and authorizing the Mayor to sign her working agreement for Fiscal Year 2020-21. A motion was made by Mr. Peterman and seconded by Mr. Bezold to approve municipal order MO-17-2020. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Cameron, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Collier, Mr. Peterman, Mr. Bezold, and Mr. Blau. Voting “no” none. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business to come before council, a motion was made by Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Collier to adjourn.

APPROVED:

Eric Haas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk