

**FORT MITCHELL CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 21, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL**

Mayor Hehman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Vicki Boerger, Joe Hayes, Kim Nachazel, Dan Rice, Beth Rose, and Michael Stoeckle.  
Denny Zahler was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

City Administrator Sharmili Reddy, City Attorney Paul Wischer, Park Director Kyle Bennett and City Clerk Linda Bartels.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD (CEB)**

Mayor Hehman announced there was a discussion recently at a Mayors' Meeting regarding the PDS-Joint Code Enforcement Board. There are 11 jurisdictions in Kenton County that are members of the Board. Currently, we have three of our CEB members that are up for re-appointment. Mayor Hehman felt this would be a good time to discuss the possibility of abandoning our Board and joining PDS.

Paul Wischer serves as counsel for our CEB. He has due process concerns with the Board. Sometimes members are not recusing themselves if they know someone before the Board, some are calling in complaints and other similar issues. The Board only meets four times per year and some of those meetings are canceled. This makes it easy for property owners in violation to not remediate the problems in a timely manner.

Mr. Wischer and Rob Himes, Codes Administrator for PDS, provided some addition information. The PDS-Joint CEB meets monthly. There is a representative from each jurisdiction which makes for a more impartial setting. Staff presents the case to the Board for review and the property owner then can do a rebuttal. The Board will enforce our Code and they will work with our citizens. However, they will probably not approve an extension lasting over two years. Which has been a problem in our City. PDS supplies all the support and record keeping. This takes the burden off of City staff and attorney.

Mrs. Reddy stated we will still be able to work with PDS and Paul Wischer on settling some of the extreme cases. As they have done this year with multiple abandon and neglected properties. The ultimate is to get the property cleaned up. She said she works with Rob Himes a lot on properties in the City and that would continue. After a discussion with Council Members, Mrs. Reddy and Mayor Hehman asked that they think about it for a couple of weeks. The issue will be added the April's agenda.

## **Soccer Field/Track Proposal**

Mayor Hehman stated our soccer field is always in use. However, it is shut down about eight months a year so that the field can be repaired and recover. He decided to contact the community schools to see what they thought was needed. They recommended a soccer field. He introduced Dr. Mike Stacy, Superintendent of Beechwood Schools. Dr. Stacy said their facility needs are important. Their campus can't hold a full size soccer field or track. With the help of Joe Hayes they have looked all over the City for land to purchase to build. There is not a large enough area available except the possibility of General Ormsby Park. He ask that we let him know when we decide if we are going to build a soccer field or make other large changes to the park. He would like to opportunity to negotiate a possible addition such as a track. He said an eight lane track would be able to accommodate many competitive events including college level.

Joe Hayes reviewed a preliminary drawing of the park with a soccer field and track added along with approximate costs. He did not charge for this work. Mr. Dan Blank of Ross Sinclair reviewed possible ways to finance the project.

Mrs. Reddy said she has had many talks with the City of Fort Thomas about their joint projects with the schools in their City. They said it works very well. They recommend setting up logistics in the beginning and have someone to manage the scheduling. Mayor Hehman stated we must decide what our wants are vs our needs. The Park Board will decide what happens with the Park. The City will take care of the financing.

After a discussion with Council Members, Mrs. Reddy outlined a plan for them to move forward.

- We agree that we have to develop a vision for the park.
  - Dr. Stacey will approach the Board of Education to see what they can do.
  - The City will hold a public hearing.
- Develop a vision that the community shares

## **Design Guidelines in Commercial Districts**

Mr. Hayes submitted proposed design guidelines for the Commercial Districts in the City. This is something he has wanted to do since he was elected. He said they were simple, easy to follow and will prevent metal buildings. He briefly reviewed the guidelines.

Mrs. Reddy said this would be a text amendment that would have to be adopted by ordinance. We would need to submit an application to the Planning Commission. The Commission will argue different points of view and make a recommendation that will come back to council for a decision. She will add it to the agenda for the next Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mrs. Boerger made the motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting at 8:53 p.m.** Mr. Stoeckle offered a second to the motion. After asking for discussion or questions and hearing none, the Mayor called for a voice vote. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Signed 4-18, 2016

  
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Jude Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:

  
Linda Bartels, City Clerk