

FORT MITCHELL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2016

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

Mayor Hehman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Pack 223 from Hebron.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

City Administrator Sharmili Reddy, City Attorney Louis Kelly, Public Works Director Matt Stegman, Fire Chief Gary Auffart, Police Chief Andrew Schierberg, Recreation Coordinator Zach Rechtin, and City Clerk Linda Bartels.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Zahler made a motion to approve the agenda, Mrs. Nachazel offered a second to the motion. After asking for discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mrs. Rose made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2016 council meeting with the following amendment: Change Mrs. Rose's vote for Resolution 2016-07 to yes. She was in attendance for the meeting. Mr. Stoeckle offered a second to the motion. After asking for discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed by all ayes.

Mr. Kelly performed a reading of Resolution 2016-07 authorizing the Mayor to apply for funds from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Programs for the purchase of a Power Cot, Power Load System and Automatic CPR Device and further authorizing the expenditure of required local contribution if awarded.

PRESENTATION FOR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Mayor Hehman presented plaques to outgoing Council Members Denny Zahler, Dan Rice and Joe Hayes for their years of service to Fort Mitchell. He thanked them for not only servicing on council, but on various committees and projects.

Mayor Hehman presented Michael Cummings, DMD, with a proclamation and thanked him for investing in the business community of Fort Mitchell by and greatly improving his building in the business district.

DIXIE HIGHWAY SIDEWALK TAP GRANT – PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Mayor Hehman explained the process for the information session. He asked if people wish to address the council, they must sign the sheet. They will be limited to approximately two minutes due to the large attendance. He stated we have applied for many grants in the two years he has been Mayor. They are always open to public input when we have enough information available. The meeting tonight maybe a little premature due to the fact the we do not have all the answers at this point, but there is a lot of misinformation going around that needs to be addressed. Money has not been awarded for the projected.

Mrs. Reddy stated that we should know if we received the grant sometime between January and April. The grant application has a lot of flexibility built in to it and will allow for community involvement if the grant is approved. There is still a lot to be done if we get the grant such as the design which will allow us to plan appropriate widths. She explained along the path of the project there are a variety of areas with opportunities to improve for our future. There are parking problems near our downtown area, the park at the entrance to Sunnymeade needs improvements to make it feel more like a park instead of an empty lot, the empty lot at the corner of Dixie and Silver, and at the end is Beechwood School, Highland Cemetery and the Commercial hub. This sidewalk is the spine of the City that connects all these elements and why we thought this was an important project to enhance for the community.

Mrs. Reddy introduced Mr. Bob Yoder. Mr. Yoder assisted with the grant application. He said if we pass the first phase of the grant process and receive it, we would have about 60 days' notice to submit further information. The next step will be to work with State Transportation to hammer out the details, then the design phase. He averages winning one out of three grants he submits. If all goes well, construction could start around May of 2018. Mrs. Nachazel asked if public involvement can have an impact with the State regarding their decision. Public input can help or hurt a project per Mr. Yoder.

Mr. Stegman explained that TAP stood for Transportation Alternative Program. It is Federal money that is distributed to the States to use to award projects. He said the existing sidewalk in the project area is 5' and the land between the sidewalk and the road is approximately 35' to 40' the entire length. This is a tremendous asset to the City and must be protected. There are a lot of trees in the right-of-way that are very important to the City. However, there are problems with some of the trees. The City has consulted an arborist and asked him to attend tonight to explain some of the issues. Some of the other issues along the walk that will be addressed are the utility pedestals, turnaround pads, the State proposed turn lane onto Beechwood, keeping the current feeling of being protected.

Mr. Bill Fountain, Arborist and Extension Professor for the Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, reported that the area contains 72 individual trees and 10 different species such as hawthorns (20%), crab apples (25%), and pear trees(39%). He stated the pears are aging out and will need to be replaced soon. The best plan is to replace on a rotating basis so that the tree line does not all need replaced at one time. Ideally you want to have a 42% canopy, but that is hard to accomplish. He also recommends that there be no more than 5% of a particular genus in order to improve diversity. He also discussed several new techniques such as Silva cells that can be used to plant trees right next to the sidewalk. Dr. Fountain offered to draft a report that will include the level of each tree. This will let us know what to remove immediately and when to plan to replace others.

Mr. Chris Schneider with PDS outlined information about bike and pedestrian counts that have been conducted on the north and south bound sidewalks. The 2016 counts conducted from May 24th to June 6th showed 6,226 users on the sidewalks on both sides of Dixie Highway.

Mr. Wade Johnston, the regional trails coordinator with Tri-State Trails presented the benefits of trails and how this sidewalk is part of a larger trail network. He also discussed how trails and multi-use paths have helped with economic development in other communities. Mr. Johnston also presented what different widths of trails could accommodate and encouraged the city to consider the long term benefits of this project. Mr. Jason Reser with Reser Bicycle Outfitters then talked about different types of cyclists and how not everyone is comfortable riding on Dixie Highway due to the traffic. He said a wider path would make it more comfortable for pedestrians and bikers to use it.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Multi Use Path

Margaret Berwanger, 109 Pleasant Ridge, thinks this is a terrible idea. Too short, high cost and unsafe.

Mike Evans, 3029 Edgemar Drive, Edgewood, bike path would help move bikes off highway.

Don Coleman, 2360 Brice Drive, bad idea. Thinks they will have to install 5' wall and fence.

Marsha Bach, 2388 Grandview Drive, works in Fort Mitchell and thinks this is a good idea. The multi-use path would help promote activity for healthier citizens.

Doris Wilmhoff, 17 Lucerne Avenue, recommend that the people along the highway be on a committee to look into this grant. Hope a courtesy is extended to those that live in these expensive houses. Wants to keep tree buffer.

Lois Ann Shannon, 4 Princeton Avenue, has lived here over 75 years. Was against it, but have changed mind tonight. Now it feels positive. Preserve greenspace.

Erin Proctor, 77 Thompson, positive about project. Wants citizens to have input along way.

John Thompson, 360 Longmeadow, He stated money would be better used to hire police officers.

Tom Becker, 2329 Dixie Highway, lived on highway many years. Would like to see that we don't go overboard, use constraint and make it nice.

Kevin Dicke, 38 East Orchard, This is a great opportunity. It is an asset to community. Path does need to be larger.

Jack Krumpleman, (Not on sign in sheet) Against project. Rides bike each day. The path is dangerous. Cars run stop signs. Six streets and 14 driveways to cross. This is not a good trail.

Bob Pille, 2424 Dixie Highway, PDS counter report is no accurate. They counted in the sweet spot of good weather and for a longer period of time. Money has been spent on project \$1,900 to MKSK.

Ms. Delbarba, 15 Greenbriar, (Not on sign in sheet.) The trail is good for walking. In moderation it is good project.

John Dunn, 18 Virginia, Works in Fort Mitchell, Appreciates the consideration tonight. Need better comparison of data. Need better communication.

Carol Whitehead, 210 Highland, Has lived on Highland for 61 years. We cannot live in the past, but we must remember it. How many people tonight walked to the City Building? Not many I am sure.

Lori Evans, 11 Pleasant Ridge, Thanked everyone for the presentation and the facts. What do we want the area to look like? She is worried about the possible widening of the highway.

Michael Smith, 41 Woodlawn, suggested we widen the sidewalk on the opposite side of the highway. A sidewalk in needed on Woodlawn.

Toby Holocher, 15 Miami Avenue, How many Dixie resident were contacted prior to grant? Mr. Yoder stated he worked with City not residents during this phase. That should be next step.

Joe Humpert, 316 Summit, Does not own a car. Rides a bike or uses public transportation. Would benefit from a linear park. Excellent opportunity to listen to everyone and take the lead in Northern Kentucky with walking and riding.

Lisa Carter, 4 Harvard, Does not like the idea of removing berm. Thinks the bad trees should be replaced. The driveways are an issue.

Joe Lacy, 70 Greenbrier, walks trail three to four times per week. We should listen to the people on the Highway. This is major plastic surgery to our community. These are our neighbors.

David Morris, 26 Burdsall Avenue, does not understand what problem we are solving.

John Kennedy, 2414 Dixie Highway, there is not congestion and he does not see anything to fix. This is a huge safety issue with cars pulling out of driveways especially if you remove the pads. It will not work. Called for a vote to pull grant money.

Mark Wilcox, 2404 Dixie Highway, state that this was one hell of a sales job. There are 45 signs going up. The drawings do not show the driveways only what you want them to show.

Mr. Rice made a motion to withdraw the application for the TAP grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zahler. Mayor Hehman called for any questions or further discussion and upon hearing none, he called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Zahler	Yes	Mrs. Boerger	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes	Mr. Hayes	Yes
Mr. Rice	Yes	Mrs. Nachazel	Yes
Mrs. Rose	Yes		

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion Carried.

Mr. Rice made a motion to take a five minute recess, Mr. Zahler offered a second to the motion. After asking for discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes. Motion passed. Council moved to a recess

Mayor Hehman called the meeting back to order.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Kelly performed a reading of Resolution 2016-08 adopting the personnel policies. He explained that in the past the policy was adopted by an executive order. We are now using a resolution as the policies do contain certain benefits that are part of the budget such as vacation and sick time. The budget is subject to the approval by Council. The rest of the policy is under the mayor's direction. **Mr. Stoeckle made a motion** to adopt Resolution 2016-08. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boerger. Mayor Hehman called for any questions or further discussion and upon hearing none, he called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes. Motion passed.

Police Chief Schierberg reported he received three bids for body/cruiser cameras. The results of the bid for 5 year totals included - \$101,592.82 from L3, \$96,050.79 from Taser and \$112,925 from Watch Guard. He said while Taser is a good camera, over time the cost of the Cloud storage is higher than others and the cruiser camera will not be available until after the first of the year. Chief Schierberg said that while L3 also provides a competitive product it has disadvantages in comparison to Watch Guard. The L3 body camera's lens position is not adjustable. The audio performance of the L3 system also was inferior to that of the Watch Guard cameras. Finally, with the complete L3 system, officers will need to carry a body camera plus a microphone/activation switch for the in-car system. For these reasons he recommended purchasing the Watch Guard cameras. Mr. Kelly reported in his experience cameras are generally helpful in a defense of a police officer.

Mr. Kelly performed a reading of Resolution 2016-09 accepting the bid from Watch Guard for body/cruiser cameras in the amount of \$89,125 plus an estimated \$7,000 in computer servers and storage costs in the first year and an additional \$4,200 per year for four additional years, for an estimated total of \$112,925. Mr. Zahler made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-09. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayes. Mayor Hehman called for any questions or further discussion and upon hearing none, he called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes. Motion passed.

Mr. Kelly performed a first reading of Ordinance 2016-14 amending the code enforcement regulations per the new State regulations.

Mr. Kelly explained the council members received a list of surplus property for their review. In the past the Council approved the list of surplus property and then the Mayor would sign an Executive Order. This property then may be disposed of by the employees. Fire Chief Auffart asked to have the ambulance listed as surplus to be donated to Kenton County. This has been done in the past. The County will keep and maintain it to be used as a replacement ambulance if other jurisdictions need to borrow it.

Mr. Zahler made a motion to declare the list submitted as surplus including the ambulance to be donated to Kenton County, Mrs. Nachazel offered a second to the motion. After asking for discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes. Motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hehman thanked Denny Zahler, Dan Rice and Joe Hayes again for all their efforts for the City of Fort Mitchell. They will still stay involved on various committees and projects.

Mayor Hehman thanked Zach Rehtin, Recreation Coordinator, and everyone else who helped make the Christmas event a success.

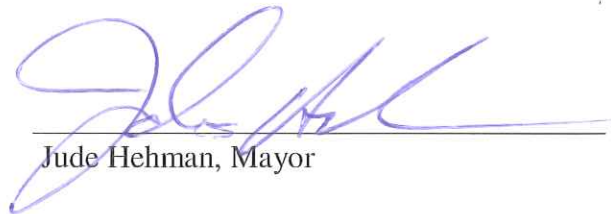
COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Rice announced that a Finance Committee meeting will be held next Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hayes made the motion to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 10:30 p.m. Mr. Zahler 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 1-11-17, 2016



Jude Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:



Linda Bartels, City Clerk