

**FORT MITCHELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 4, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Vicki Boerger, Greg Pohlgeers, Beth Rose, Michael Stoeckle, and Kim Nachazel. Absent: Mary Burns and Jim Hummeldorf.

OTHERS PRESENT

City Administrator Sharmili Reddy, City Attorney Louis Kelly, Fire Chief Adam Fuller, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Hils, Assistant Fire Chief Dave Jansing, City Treasurer Amy Guenther, Public Works Director Matt Stegman, Police Chief Andrew Schierberg, Programs and Communications Coordinator Janie Patterson and City Clerk Debbie Krueger.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Hehman noted that there was a correction to the Agenda. Resolution 2018-15 should actually read Resolution 2018-16.

Mrs. Boerger made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, 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 carried by all ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Stoeckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2018, council meeting as presented. Mrs. Boerger 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.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

There were no citizens or guests wishing to speak to Council at this time.

FIRE CHIEF SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Mayor Hehman read the Oath of Office to Adam Fuller. Mrs. Cori Fuller, wife of Adam Fuller, pinned on the Fire Chief badge. Fire Chief Fuller introduced his family and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the City of Fort Mitchell as Fire Chief. Fire Chief Fuller advised that it is an exciting year as it is the 90th year for the Fire Department and he was happy to see past and present firefighters in the audience. Fire Chief Fuller advised that there is a lot to be done and is excited to get started.

MAYOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

Mayor Hehman stated that by law he is required to provide a synopsis of the Mayor's Budget Message. Mayor Hehman advised that his vision has always been to protect the life and health of our residents. Each year we plan for essential services, economic development and infrastructure projects, but this year's budget has a greater emphasis on the City's long term fiscal health and addressing the pension crisis. The estimated annual increase in pension costs by year four will be \$550,000. To be fiscally responsible Mayor Hehman is

proposing the Payroll Tax be increased from 1% to 1.25%. This tax has never been increased since it was adopted and even with the increase, Fort Mitchell will still be one of the lowest in Kenton County. Mayor Hehman is also proposing a 3% gas and electric Franchise Fee, which he feels is equitable since non-property owners that use City services, will also be paying the fee. Mayor Hehman hopes that Council will support the budget. Mayor Hehman commented on several items included in the budget:

General Fund

Revenues – The property tax rate will remain the same. The Payroll Tax revenue is budgeted to increase approximately \$185,000 based on a 1.25% rate and \$100,000 is budgeted for the new utility Franchise Fee estimated to be effective January 1, 2019.

General & Administration Department- One full-time position has been eliminated and the recreation position has been combined with an administration position to improve internal efficiencies and control costs.

Police Department – Continue staffing 15 officers to maintain adequate road coverage, increase safety at Beechwood and Blessed Sacrament Schools.

Fire Department- Continue staffing of four employees around the clock and an additional 1-2 employees during high volume business hours. There will be continued emphasis on volunteer recruitment through the schools and the retention of current employees and volunteers.

Public Works – Increase hours of the work week from 37.5 to 40 hours.

Recreation –Continue to focus on larger community events.

Municipal Road Aid- Normal road maintenance and snow removal as well as funds to construct a sidewalk on Orphanage Road and engineering for sidewalk on Beechwood Road from Grandview Tavern to Fort Mitchell Place.

Park Fund – Continue working on long range improvement plans based on community feedback. Need to make park ADA compliant and add parking. The Park Board will hold a Public Hearing prior to bidding out the project.

Road Tax Fund – Comprehensive 5 year plan is evaluated every 2 years. Resurfacing of Greenbriar, Highland and Oak, engineering for Ridge, W Orchard and Pieck, as well as resurfacing Coleman.

Capital Fund – Purchase of 2 police vehicles and 1 fire vehicle, a street sweeper to be shared with Edgewood, 2 public works trucks and radios for Fire and EMS.

Mayor Hehman advised that the City has been vigilant in maintaining a healthy fund balance and he looks forward to discussing the budget with Council.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Kelly performed a second reading of Ordinance 2018-05 modifying the stipend for Fire Department Volunteers. Mrs. Rose made a motion to pass Ordinance 2018-05 modifying the stipend for Fire Department Volunteers. Mrs. Boerger made a second to the motion. Mayor Hehman asked for further discussion or questions, hearing none, he called for a roll call vote.

Mrs. Rose	Yes	Mrs. Boerger	Yes
Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes	Mrs. Nachazel	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes	Ms. Burns	Absent

Mr. Hummeldorf Absent

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried

Mr. Kelly performed a second reading of Ordinance 2018-06 increasing the Occupational License Fee (Payroll Tax) levied and imposed to One and One-Quarter Percent (1.25%) of all compensation earned by an employee for labor, work or services provided in the City, subject to existing exclusions and exemptions. Mrs. Rose made a motion to pass Ordinance 2018-06 increasing the Occupational License Fee (Payroll Tax) levied and imposed to One and One-Quarter Percent (1.25) of all compensation earned by an employee for labor, work or services provided in the City, subject to existing exclusions and exemptions. (This will be effective January 1, 2019) Mr. Stoeckle made a second to the motion. Mayor Hehman asked for comments or discussion. Mr. Pohlgeers noted that no one likes to raise taxes, but looking at what other cities are doing, we will still be one of the lowest with this increase. After asking for further discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote.

Mrs. Rose	Yes	Mrs. Boerger	Yes
Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes	Mr. Stoeckle	Yes
Mrs. Nachazel	Yes	Mr. Hummeldorf	Absent
Ms. Burns	Absent		

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Motion Carried

Mr. Kelly performed a first reading of Ordinance 2018-07 amending the 2017-2018 budget.

Mayor Hehman asked that Assistant Fire Chief Hils provide insight on recent events with the Fire Department. Assistant Fire Chief Hils advised that the 2006 Explorer is in need of a new engine. The estimate for the repairs is \$6,300 which is over the Blue Book value of the vehicle. The Crown Vic staff car currently has a maximum speed of 40 mph and the estimated cost to repair the vehicle is 75% more than the value of the vehicle. Mayor Hehman noted that one vehicle was in the last fiscal year budget, but they opted not to replace it and now that decision has come back to haunt them. It is possible that the amended and original budget will need to be changed to replace the two vehicles.

Mr. Kelly performed a first reading of Ordinance 2018-08 for the 2018-2019 budget. Mr. Pohlgeers advised that at this point the only thing up in the air at this time is the Franchise Fee and asked what the timeline would be. Mrs. Reddy advised that it would take approximately two months. Mr. Pohlgeers questioned that this fee was really for future years and we could really do without it for this year's budget. Mayor Hehman advised that was correct. Mrs. Boerger advised that Council needs to be pro-active. Mr. Pohlgeers advised that it would be a good creative way to close the gap without raising property taxes. Mayor Hehman stated that it is a fair fee for all that use City services. Mrs. Nachazel asked if it would put more burden on the businesses versus the residents and Mrs. Reddy advised that it would be evenly distributed to all.

Mr. Kelly performed a reading of Resolution 2018-16 authorizing the Mayor to execute the third amendment renewing the Northern Kentucky Governmental Purchasing Agreement to extend the duration to 2028. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to pass Resolution 2018-16. Mr. Stoeckle made a second to the motion. Mayor Hehman asked for further discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes.

Mr. Kelly performed a reading of Municipal Order 2018-07 appointing Beth Connaroe as a member of the City of Fort Mitchell Park Board. Mr. Stoeckle made a motion to pass Municipal Order 2018-07 to appoint Beth Connaroe to the Park Board. Mrs. Boerger offered a second to the motion. Mayor Hehman asked for further discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried by all ayes.

Mrs. Boerger thanked Ms. Cindy Burns for her years of service on the Park Board.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hehman stated Mr. William Miller has been chosen as the Grand Marshall for the July 4th Parade. Mr. Miller is a life-long resident having grown up as an orphan at the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home. Mr. Miller is a dedicated resident who served many years on the Board of Adjustment and still volunteer's at the Children's Home.

Mayor Hehman asked Council for their preferences regarding the July 4th Parade, since it is an election year, he wanted to know if they wanted golf carts, a float, or to do their own thing. Mrs. Nachazel advised that she was good with doing the float and the rest of council agreed that would be fine.

Mayor Hehman gave a special thank you to Assistant Fire Chief Jim Hils for stepping up running the department and everything he did in the absence of a Fire Chief.

City Administrator Report

Mrs. Reddy advised that the Public Hearing for Municipal Road Aid will be at 6:55 pm on June 18, 2018 prior to the regular Council Meeting.

Mrs. Reddy advised that the Text and Map Amendment for the bank on Buttermilk Pike is going before the Kenton County Planning Commission on Thursday, June 7, 2018.

Comments from Council

Mrs. Boerger advised that the Wall of Honor Ceremony was held on May 28, 2018. Mr. John Hehman and Mr. Edgar McNabb were inducted this year. A portion of the Beechwood Band performed and there was a special performance by Mitchell Hehman who sang for the ceremony. Mrs. Rose thanked Mrs. Boerger for all of her hard work in organizing the event and advised that it was a very nice ceremony.

Mayor Hehman recognized Public Works Director, Matt Stegman for all of his hard work replacing the stone out front by the clock with all of the names of those who helped support the clock.

Department Head Reports

Public Works Director, Matt Stegman reported that the resurfacing on Pleasant Ridge is almost complete. The Water District project on Highland between Oak and Floral will start after July 4, 2018 and is to be completed prior to school starting. Traffic will be down to one lane due to the construction taking place down the middle of the street. Mr. Stegman advised that there is still negotiations with residents on the Orphanage Road sidewalks and the Greenbriar turn-around. Mayor Hehman noted that Mr. Ron Becker, a resident of Floral was in the audience said there was a rumor that the water line on Floral would need to be replaced. Mr. Stegman said that he had not heard that rumor, but when that water line was replaced they used a 6" line and that should be sufficient for fire service. Mr. Pohlgeers asked about the status of the Beechwood Road turn lane. Mayor stated that he has reached out to Kentucky Transportation, but has nothing new Mrs. Reddy stated that it is going to be 2019 now before this project can move forward.

Police Chief Andrew Schierberg advised that the "Click It or Ticket It" campaign is going on with the State and there is increased enforcement for this on Dixie Highway. It has been noted that accidents on the expressway have increased and Sgt. Gross has contacted the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet for more signage. They have advised that they will check out the situation and see what is needed. Chief Schierberg

advised that there will be a community cookout on June 26, 2018 at 6 pm and it will either be held in Councilwoman Burns' neighborhood, Fort Mitchell Place, or in the Crescent Park area. The location will be set soon. Whichever location is chosen, another cookout date will be planned for the area.

Fire Chief Adam Fuller advised that they had 158 runs for the month. Volunteers had 202 hours on those runs. Two volunteer recruits have completed the Northern Kentucky Recruit training class and are very close to their Firefighter Certification. Two interns from Beechwood have completed their training and the EMT Class at Gateway and are close to their Firefighter Certification as well. Beginning next school year there will be three (3) interns from Beechwood. Chief Fuller advised that he is working with the State Fire Commission to start a Junior Firefighter Program. Chief Fuller stated that the department will be going through an ISO Rating Review late in 2018 or early 2019.

Programs and Communication Coordinator, Janie Patterson thanked everyone for the opportunity to take over the recreation program. Ms. Patterson advised that the Summer Camp will begin on Tuesday and the Farmer's Market sponsored by Live Well will begin on Wednesday. Currently there are four (4) vendor's but hope to have more as the summer moves along. All proceeds from the market go to DCCH. There will be a Business Breakfast on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, and the Movie in the Park will be on Friday, June 8, 2018 at 8:30 pm. There will be snacks, refreshments and Kona Ice. Ms. Patterson has been working with Chief Schierberg and Public Works Director Matt Stegman on ways to run the July 4th Parade more efficiently. The theme of the parade has not been finalized, but should be announced next week.

Park Director, Kyle Bennett advised that the Park Board has been working on the long range plans for the Fort Mitchell Park for 14 months. Mr. Bennett provided a presentation on the four (4) plan options and advised that the Park Board favor options 1 & 4 while Bayer Becker Engineers favor options 4 & 2. All of the plans include a pavilion with restrooms, storage facility, walking path, baseball and soccer fields, playground and additional parking spaces. Mayor Hehman noted that the Park was built in 1982 and needs to be made ADA compliant. Mr. Bennett advised that the approximate cost of the project is \$610,000. Mayor Hehman advised that there is \$350,000 in the budget for the Park Board to borrow. Mr. Bennett advised that they would like to have a Public Hearing on the project in late August or early September and then go out to bid in late September or early October. The project may be phased in and includes:

1. Baseball Fields and Walking Trail
2. Pavilion and Restrooms
3. Parking Lot

Mr. Bennett advised there will be more discussion by the Park Board at their next meeting on June 7, 2018 at 8 pm.

Amy Guenther, Treasurer had nothing to report at this time.

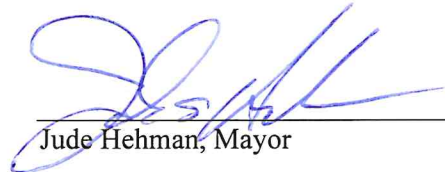
City Clerk, Debbie Krueger provided an update on delinquent taxes. There are several properties with multiple years of delinquent taxes. One resident has made a lump sum payment of \$9,000 toward his delinquent bill and has signed an agreement to pay off the balance. One property is up for sale and has a tentative closing date of June 11, 2018. The City should receive a check to cover the outstanding balance of \$9,659.76 by the end of that week. Another property is working on getting a loan to pay off all the outstanding taxes and the hope is to have \$6,924.43 paid sometime in July 2018. There are three (3) other properties that are delinquent for multiple years and have made no contact with the City to try to come up with a plan to pay the bills. Mrs. Krueger is currently working with City Attorney, Louis Kelly to take steps to collect these taxes.

Mayor Hehman offered his congratulations to City Attorney Louis Kelly for winning the election for Boone County Commonwealth Attorney. Mr. Kelly stated that he was very excited and has enjoyed his time

working with the City of Fort Mitchell. Mayor Hehman noted that we will be interviewing attorneys from Mr. Kelly's firm to have someone in place for the transition in late summer/early fall. Mr. Pohlgeers advised Mr. Kelly that he has been a real asset to the City and that it has been a pleasure working with him.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pohlgeers made the motion to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:58 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.



Jude Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:



Debbie Krueger, City Clerk