

**FORT MITCHELL CITY COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 20, 2019**

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

Mayor Hehman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Jude Hehman, Vicki Boerger, Greg Pohlgeers, Michael Stoeckle, Mary Burns, Jerry Deatherage, Scott McVey and Kim Nachazel.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

City Administrator, Sharmili Reddy; Fire Chief, Adam Fuller; Police Chief, Andrew Schierberg; Public Works Director, Matt Stegman; City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther; Abby Link, Intern and Janie Patterson, Programs Coordinator

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Hehman asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Pohlgeers 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**

Mayor Hehman asked for a motion for approval of the May 6, 2019 minutes. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 council meeting as presented. Ms. Burns offered a second to the motion. After asking for discussion and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed by all ayes.

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS**

Will Hiner, a fifth grade student, was present and explained his coffee roasting business. Mr. Hiner orders coffee beans from all over the world, roasts them and grinds them. His email is [ftmitchellcoffeeroastingco@outlook.com](mailto:ftmitchellcoffeeroastingco@outlook.com) and his Facebook page is Fort Mitchell Coffee Roasting Company if anyone would like to order any coffee.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The Mayor stated that currently nothing is budgeted for the Utility Franchise Fee. \$600,000 is budgeted to loan the park for park improvements. Approximately, \$150,000 shortfall is budgeted. The retirement rate will increase 12% each year for the next four years. The City has \$9,000,000 as a liability on last years audited financial statement and council needs to think about how the City will pay for the increasing retirement expense.

Mrs. Guenther gave a review of the 2018-2019 amended budget and the 2019-2020 proposed budget:

**General Revenue**

- Property Tax is budgeted at the same rate. The entire City's property values are reassessed in 2019.
- Payroll License Fee is budgeted to increase \$242,000 with rate change from 1% to 1.25%.
- City Contractual Services includes Beechwood contributing \$52,000 this year for the School Resource Officer. Crestview Hills and Lakeside Park's contract payments increase each year.

### **General Government & Administration**

- Administrative expenses are budgeted to decrease 7% from the current budget.
- Salaried Wages decreased \$88,000 due to the combining of the City Clerk and Treasurer position along with the retirement of long-time employees.
- \$22,000 is budgeted for a part-time administrative assistant.
- Biannual Appreciation dinner will be in this upcoming fiscal year.
- Legal expenses are budgeted for \$41,000 which will include an ordinance clean-up project.
- An additional \$15,000 is included in the technology budget to update the website. Also two new computers and newsletter software need to be purchased.
- The City will be bidding out the audit.
- TBNK membership fees are being paid directly from Spectrum and Cincinnati Bell to TBNK, so the City no longer has the expense.
- \$25,000 is budgeted for the 5 Year Dixie Hwy/Edenderry Master Tree Plan.

### **Police Department**

- The police budget is increasing 2.46% for inflation.
- The budget includes continued staffing of 15 officers, one of which is the School Resource Officer partially paid for by Beechwood.
- The budget includes three crossing guards to keep the school children safe.

### **Fire Department**

- The fire department budget includes an 11.46% increase.
- Part-Time Wages are increasing \$111,000 to add a 5<sup>th</sup> person on the weekends and nights. Currently the department is staffing the 5<sup>th</sup> person from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- The department applied for a personnel grant and if it is received, the budget would need to be amended.
- \$20,000 is budgeted for hose replacement.

Mayor Hehman stated that the City has increased staffing at an annual additional cost of \$810,000 from one employee to four employees on nights and weekends since 2014. Currently the fire department has five employees plus the two chiefs during the daytime peak hours. The Mayor said that three employees are needed to get a fire truck out and two employees are needed for the ambulance. The Mayor went over a graph of the cost of three staffing scenarios: The current staffing model at \$2,104,000, five employees at all times with the 5<sup>th</sup> position staffed with part-time costing \$2,373,000 and the 5<sup>th</sup> position staffed by three full-time employees with one 24 hour shift covered by part-time, costing \$2,587,000.

Chief Fuller stated that using a part-time employee for the 5<sup>th</sup> shift is not as reliable as full-time, because part-time employees have other full-time jobs that are the first priority and night/weekends are not desirable hours to pick up since most people want to be with their families.

The Mayor stated that if council believes that staffing five firefighters around the clock is necessary, then they need to determine how they want to pay for it. Mr. Pohlgeers stated that if we earmark the utility gas and electric franchise fees for increased fire department staffing, the residents will understand. Mr. Deatherage stated that police and fire services are important lifesaving services. Ms. Reddy reminded council that they still need to find a way to pay for the additional \$500,000 of annual retirement expenses (within four years).

### **Public Works**

- The public works budget includes a 3.21% increase.
- \$8,000 is budgeted for a seasonal laborer.



- One or two solar lights and LED will be tried to test the efficiency and desirability.
- \$32,000 is budgeted for Streetscape and Beautification to include Beechwood/Dixie landscaping, downtown planters and gateway planning on the north end.

#### **Recreation**

- Same as last year's budget that will focus on larger community events instead of small ones

#### **Municipal Road Aid Fund**

- Bromley/Crescent Springs Road – Place holder for 2019-2020 project
- Orphanage Road Sidewalks
- Beechwood Road Safety Project-Council priority walkability, safety and signage
- Beechwood Road Sidewalk (Grandview to Ft. Mitchell Place) Engineering

#### **General Fund**

- A loss of \$429,000 is budgeted, but \$350,000 of this loss is the \$350,000 loan to the Park Fund. Since the City normally comes in under budget, the remaining loss is not likely to happen.

#### **Municipal Road Aid Fund**

- Orphanage Road sidewalks is budgeted for \$400,000
- Bromley/Crescent Springs road project with Kenton County is budgeted for \$105,000
- Beechwood Road Sidewalk engineering is budgeted for \$40,000
- Beechwood school safety project is budgeted for \$15,000

#### **Park Fund**

- The Park Board asked to borrow \$600,000 from the City to be paid back over ten years.
- The Park renovations will be bid out this summer. \$900,000 has been budgeted.

#### **Road Tax Fund**

- \$1,425,000 is budgeted for road expenses.
- Resurfacing projects include Highland Avenue, Oak Street, Coleman Avenue, Virginia Avenue and Anthony Lane.
- Reconstruction projects include West Orchard, Pieck Lane and some Dixie Highway curbs.
- The City will continue to keep the Buttermilk-Orphanage realignment in the budget to keep as a priority.


#### **Capital Fund**

- \$100,000 is budgeted for sidewalks.
- \$159,000 is budgeted for building improvements including dorms, fire and police HVAC, fire window replacement, fence, artwork, council room technology, gym equipment and public works garage improvement planning.
- A purchase of two police SUV's are budgeted.
- A purchase of a fire department pickup truck is budgeted.
- Two public works pickup trucks, radios and a street sweeper to share with Edgewood is budgeted

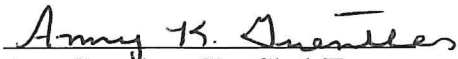
Mr. Deatherage stated that the Finance Committee met and went over the budget. The finance committee do not believe the utility franchise fee should be added until and if the revenue is needed. It should also be earmarked for a specific reason. They also think that employees should absorb an additional percentage of the health insurance costs.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McVey the motion to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 8:25 p.m. Ms. Boerger 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.

  
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Jude Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:

  
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Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer