

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY COUNCIL ROOM
MEETING AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT TBNK.ORG UNDER “TBNK TO GO”
August 24, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL

Mayor Jude Hehman, called the council meeting to order at 6:36 p.m., called roll and announced that there was a quorum.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Acting City Administrator and Police Chief, Andrew Schierberg; City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther; Fire Chief, Adam Fuller; City Attorney, Claire Parsons; Programs Coordinator, Joe Christofield; and Park Director, Kyle Bennett

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Ms. Nachazel made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. After asking for any discussion and hearing none, Mayor Jude Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried with all ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any changes to the July 6, 2020 minutes. Mr. McVey stated that Mr. Lambert's name was misspelled and needed to be corrected. Mr. McVey made a motion to approve the July 6, 2020 minutes with the correction. Mr. Pohlgeers seconded the motion. After asking for discussion and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed with all ayes.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Mayor Jude Hehman asked if there were any comments or questions from citizens on Zoom or Facebook. Chief Schierberg and Mr. Christofield stated that there were none.

PARK RENOVATION DISCUSSION

Mr. Bennett stated that the low bid for demolition and site work without the addendums was \$828,000 and the low bid for the building was \$435,000 for a total of \$1,263,000. The amount included in the budget was \$900,000. Mr. Bennett, the engineer and the Park Board looked at cost that could be reduced. If some parking was eliminated and the trail width was reduced, the cost could be reduced to \$1,100,000. Mr. Bennett and a member of the Park Board will present the bids and plans at the next Council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Hehman went over the tax rate calculations. The compensating rate is the same rate as last year of .136 per \$100. Compensating plus four will bring in an additional \$67,000. The City is approximately the fourth lowest in taxes compared to other Kenton County cities to cover all of the City, Fire, Road, Police, Park and Recreation Services. The City Treasurer, Amy Guenther, was told in a few trainings that state regulates state that, it is mandatory that cities tax personal property. The City Attorney believes cities are authorized to charge the tax, but that it is not mandatory. Ms. Parson said most cities do charge this tax and we can look into this. Mayor Hehman stated that personal property is inventory, furniture and fixtures of businesses. The personal property tax would bring in around \$40,000. Mr. Pohlgeers would like to see the revenue numbers in relation to the budget for the property taxes and would like the finance committee's thoughts on the personal property tax. There will be a special meeting on September 14th for the first reading of the property tax rates. The Mayor stated that he would like some guidance on what property tax rate and type to bring to bring to Council at the next meeting.
- The City is planning on getting tax bills out by the end of September and adding a 30 day grace period.
- Two police officers left employment with the City, so the department is down three employees. It is difficult to find police and fire employees. Many cities are looking for officers and we have to make sure the City is appropriately paying the police and fire employees. Mr. Pohlgeers would like to see the salary survey for police and fire. Mr. Pohlgeers stated that it is cheaper to keep an employee than hire a new employee. Mr. Deatherage stated that we need to pay attention to what other cities are paying. Chief Schierberg said there is a high demand and low supply. Chief Schierberg stated that it takes many months to get a new hire into the police academy.

CITIZEN QUESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

- Ms. Adrianna McAfee asked about the City's Covid-19 numbers. The Mayor stated that the numbers have improved, but the 41017 and 41042 zip codes have higher cases than the surrounding Northern Kentucky areas. Mr. Deatherage asked if kids away at college are counted under their home zip code and the Mayor stated that they were.
- Mr. Michael Monks asked how the park renovation will be funded? Mayor Hehman stated that the City may loan the Park money, but it is too preliminary to determine yet. The Park Board will present the plans and the bids to City Council. The Park Tax pays to maintain expenses, but the City needs to develop a capital replacement plan.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- There has been a complaint from a residential property owner that is adjacent to the Greyhound Tavern for having outdoor music which is in violation of the zoning ordinance. Chief Schierberg will speak with the owner of Greyhound Tavern.
- The Camporosso owner may request a zoning change to be allow outdoor dining tents after the Covid-19 emergency order ends.
- The Safety Committee met and is working on the Beechwood Road safety plan. Also, the committee would like to have a sidewalk inventory compiled. Mr. Pohlgeers stated that Kenton County Planning and Development Services (PDS) offers this service. Ms. Burns asked about the

status of the Beechwood sidewalk grant. Chief Schierberg stated that nothing has been awarded. The Mayor stated that the City did apply for a grant.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Deatherage stated, hats off to Mr. Stegman for completing the Highland Avenue project.
- Ms. Burns asked if grills are allowed on decks of condos when there is no roof. Chief Fuller stated that grills could not be on decks of apartments Chief Fuller said that he would get back to Ms. Burns. Ms. Nachazel stated that Ms. Burns may want to check with the Homeowners' Association rules.

DEPARTMENT HEADS' REPORTS

Programs Coordinator, Joe Christofield

- Yoga will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at General Ormsby Park.
- The City is now communicating through Twitter and Instagram@FortMitchell.Gov, along with Facebook.

Public Works Report, Andrew Schierberg

- The majority of Highland Avenue road project is complete.
- The West Orchard and Ridge project is halfway done.
- The concrete patchwork bid will be awarded soon.

Police Chief, Andrew Schierberg

- The department has received a justice grant for PPE.
- Officers, Joel Tignor and Aleatha Brown, have resigned. Chief Schierberg has some phone interviews scheduled to fill the open positions.

Fire Chief, Adam Fuller

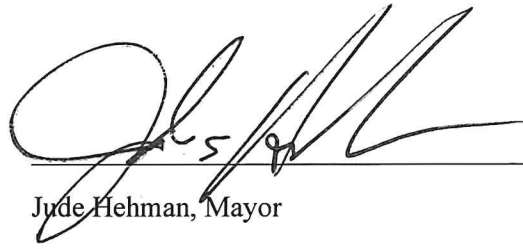
- Runs are at pre-Covid levels.
- Hydrants are being cleaned, painted and coded.
- The theme for Fire Prevention Week is Serving Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen
- The ladder truck will be ready for final inspection in September.
- Bids for the new ambulance were opened today.
- Buckle up for Life started today with a car seat install event.
- Two federal grants have been awarded for a diesel exhaust ventilation system for \$64,000 and for PPE for \$24,000.
- The FEMA grant application has started.

CITIZEN QUESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Becky Claypool asked if the tennis courts would be repaired and Mr. Bennett stated that it would be repaired.

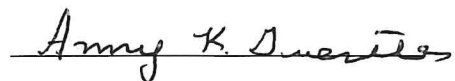
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion at 7:37 p.m. to adjourn the City Council meeting and Ms. Nachazel seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.



Jude Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:



Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer