

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AT 2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY  
COUNCIL CHAMBER ROOM  
February 22, 2022**

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

Mayor Jude Hehman, called the council meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and stated that all Council members were present except Ms. Burns.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT**

Mayor Jude Hehman, Vicki Boerger, Jerry Deatherage, Kim Nachazel, Greg Pohlgeers, Alyson Roeding and Mike Stoeckle. Absent; Mary Burns

**OTHERS PRESENT**

City Administrator, Edwin King; Police Chief, Andrew Schierberg; Police Captain, Bill Zerhusen; City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther; Deputy City Clerk, Casie Schawe; Fire Chief, Adam Fuller; Assistant Fire Chief, Dave Slusser; Public Works Director, Nick Tewes and Programs Coordinator, Joe Christofield

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Hehman asked for a motion for approval of the Agenda. Ms. Nachazel made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Stoeckle seconded 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 if there were any other changes to the February 7, 2022 minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the February 7, 2022 minutes. Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. After asking for discussion and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed with all ayes.

**PLANNING SESSION**

**Mayor Hehman**

- This is an election year, and the Mayor stated that he will not run against any of the current council members if they would like to run for Mayor. If no council members file by May 1, then he will consider running again.
- Inflation is currently at 7.1%, so if employee raises are set at 7.1% then that would be an additional \$280,000 expense.
- Staff levels have increased, and this causes more administrative work, so the administrative department is asking for the part-time employee to be made full-time.
- A site search and drawings for a public works building will continue.

- The park renovation is a great project, but progress is slow.
- Royal Drive will be reconfigured for the Drawbridge Site redevelopment. The Greenbrier Group is the senior living developer and they have signed a contract for 10 million to move forward with the project. Mr. King stated that Brandicorp is asking for about 1.3 million dollars for this road project from the City. Site work will begin this year. Mayor Hehman showed the latest drawing where the area by Buttermilk and 71/75 are developable. The developers will use traffic studies to determine some of the development. The developers will come before Council for a conditional use for drive-throughs.
- One final priority is beautification.

#### **Chief Fuller and Assistant Chief Slusser, Fire Department**

- Revise volunteer onboarding so that volunteers only start at certain times of the year, so that they move forward as a group. Volunteers will be required to be EMT certified within two years, and they will be required to take one 24 hour shift per month.
- The City received an ISO rating of a 3, and our goal is a 2. The fire department changed how they respond to runs by sending out the ladder truck with an ambulance to runs. Also, the fire department submitted 8,000 hours of training and mailed fire safety public education to all of the residents and businesses. These changes and information have been submitted to ISO for a reevaluation of the rating.
- The roof over the fire department has had a leak for years and needs to be replaced.
- The sewer line under the fire department's kitchen needs to be replaced and the kitchen needs to be remodeled. It makes sense to do the repairs at the same time.
- The volunteer stipend, burn and fire work ordinances need to be revised.
- Fire codes need to be adjusted to the 2021 NFPA codes and these codes also address food truck requirements.
- Add back the fire engine that was removed from the capital replacement plan. The call volume has increased and 20% of the runs overlap 24% of the time.
- Mr. Stoeckle stated that mutual aid should counter balance among the cities.

#### **Chief Schierberg, Police Department**

- Pay officers competitive pay to other cities. Mr. Pohlgeers stated that the City should move to merit increases.
- Invest in more solar speed signs for both sides of Dixie Highway and Beechwood Road.
- Replace rifles.

#### **Joe Christofield, Recreation Department**

- The Recreation program currently has 26 events.
- There will be no easter egg hunt this April because the park is closed.
- Ms. Roeding would like volleyball and kickball leagues and sushi making classes in the future.

- The Mayor stated that the grand marshal for the Independence Day parade would be Vent Haven Museum since they are having their renovation.
- Social media users have increased, and the readers of the newsletter subscribers are down a little.
- The electronic sign will be installed to help with communication.
- Mayor Hehman would like a report tracking of the events, costs and participation.

#### **Edwin King, Park Department**

- A sewer lateral in the park is being replaced.
- The parking lot will probably be paved in the spring.
- The ARPA funds can now be claimed as a revenue loss according to latest Treasury guidelines. These funds could be used for salaries, which frees up General Fund dollars which are more flexible. Those funds could be used to pay for change orders at the park.
- A program is being set up by Mr. Christofield to reserve the fields and the shelter. The Mayor stated that he would like to charge more for the pavilion to cover the City's costs.

#### **Amy Guenther, Administration**

- Add a human resource onboarding software.
- Update the personnel policies and the open records and alcohol license ordinances.
- Increase the part-time administrative position to full-time. In 1999 the City processed 45 employees and the City processed 94 in 2021, but the administrative employees have decreased from 5 to 4 full-time equivalents.

#### **Nick Tewes, Public Works Department**

- Pot holes have been filled on Royal Drive as a temporary fix until the reconstruction.
- Watch Hill Road will be finished this spring.
- Grace Avenue sewer work and partial replacement will begin this spring.
- Trees will be replaced on Virginia Avenue this spring.
- Mayor Hehman mentioned realigning Requardt and Sunnymede, but utilities would need to be moved.

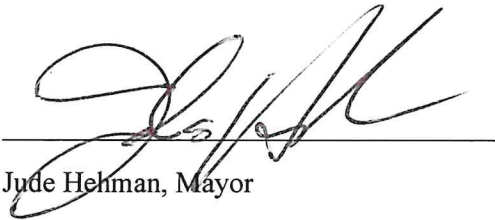
#### **Council Comments**

- Ms. Nachazel stated that she would like Precision Contract or a similar company to inventory the sidewalks.
- Mr. Stoeckle would like pot holes to be fixed.
- Ms. Nachazel would like the work of the safety committee on Beechwood Road to continue and solicit feedback from all Fort Mitchell residents.
- Mr. Pohlgeers would like beautification from Beechwood Road to West Maple Avenue. The sidewalk in front of Sunoco is awful. The Mayor stated that maybe we could get Mercedes, Kroger and the Cemetery to help with the cost of the beautification.
- Mr. Stoeckle asked, "When did the Previous Oldenburg parking lot become a truck stop?" Mr. King said he would be reaching out to the property owner.

- Mr. Pohlgeers would like to brand the business district area and look at implementing an Entertainment District.
- Ms. Roeding agreed. She would like more beautification and to move the sidewalk away from Dixie Highway. She also would like to establish a Junior Council to engage young people.

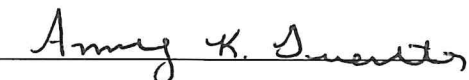
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the 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