

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
May 16, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Jude Hehman, called the regular council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and started the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Hehman asked Ms. Guenther to call roll. The following council members were present: Mary Burns, Vicki Boerger, Jerry Deatherage, Kim Nachazel, Greg Pohlgeers, Alyson Roeding and Michael Stoeckle. Mayor Hehman stated that a quorum of City Council was in attendance.

OTHERS PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Jude Hehman asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Roeding 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 Jude Hehman asked if there were any changes to the May 2, 2022 minutes. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2022 council meeting. Ms. Burns seconded the motion. After asking for discussion and hearing none, Mayor Jude Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed by all ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hehman stated that Council needed to go into executive session. Mr. Kaiser asked for the reason of the executive session. Also, Mr. Kaiser stated that more detail should be shared when an ordinance is changing. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(g) for discussion concerning a specific proposal if open discussion would jeopardize the siting, retention, expansion, or upgrading of a business. Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote and the motion passed with all ayes.

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to come out of executive session and Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. The motion passed with all ayes.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mrs. Guenther reviewed the 2021-2022 amended budget and the 2022-2023 proposed budget detail that supports the budget summary. The beginning fund balance is about \$5,400,000.

The General Fund revenue budget includes:

- The City's real estate tax rate is budgeted to stay the same tax rate. There will not be a property value reassessment until 2023.
- Gross receipts tax, payroll taxes and utility franchise tax revenue are budgeted to increase 5% based on current receipts. A large amount was backed out of the payroll tax revenue for a one time large item.
- Insurance premium tax revenue is budgeted to stay the same.
- The bank deposit tax revenue is higher than normal due to the federal stimulus and grant funds issued to businesses and individuals
- The state incentive was increased by the state legislature from \$4,000 to \$4,300 per full-time fire fighters and police officers.
- Bestway increased the contract 3% as stated in the contract based on diesel gas prices over \$5.00 per gallon. This will increase the City's waste expenses also.
- The contracted services have a built in increase.
- Total grant revenue includes \$534,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds for general government services, \$750,000 for a possible pass-through Community Development Block Grant for improvements to the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, \$130,000 for the federal SAFER volunteer recruitment grant and \$54,000 from a joint community grant for pagers. The remaining grants are for police and fire payroll and equipment.
- Total budgeted revenue is approximately \$10,590,000.

The General Fund transfer budget includes:

- \$800,000 to the Capital Fund to prepare for the Fire's kitchen renovations and the construction of a public works building.
- \$75,000 from the Park Tax Fund to the General Fund to begin paying back the \$750,000 loan.
- \$700,000 to the Road Tax Fund to cover planned road work including the Royal Drive reconstruction which will be over \$1,000,000. This amount may be reimbursed from the TIF.

Mayor Hehman stated that cities at the Northern Kentucky Mayor's group meeting are giving raises that are 7% and higher. The City has one of the lowest property taxes and has not raised the property tax rate in twelve years. Many cities take compensating plus four percent every year.

The General Fund Expense budget includes:

- 7% inflationary increase in employee wages.
- Adjustments to police wages to Northern Kentucky cities to be competitive in the market and to combat nationwide staffing shortages;
- 2% increase in health insurance premiums;
- Phase III of the Dixie Highway tree removal and replacement;
- Pass-through of CDBG funds of \$750,000 for capital improvements for two nonprofit organizations within the City;
- Increase the seasonal public works position to full-time to accomplish more road and sidewalk projects;

- Change the part-time administrative position to full-time to cover the increased staffing model of the Fire and EMS department;
- Recruitment coordinator, uniforms, tuition, and gear covered by the federal SAFER grant;
- Transfers of \$800,000 to the Capital Fund and \$700,000 to the Road Tax Fund to plan for future capital purchases and keep the City fiscally strong and responsible.

The Municipal Road Aid budget includes the following:

- Sidewalk inventory and maintenance plan;
- Various sidewalk replacement and repairs;
- Beechwood Road sidewalk construction between Grandview Drive and Fort Mitchell Place;
- Bromley/Crescent Springs road project with Kenton County.

The Park Tax budget includes the following General Ormsby Mitchell Park improvements:

- Making the park handicap accessible;
- Resurfacing the tennis courts;
- Adding parking spots;
- Realigning the baseball field;
- Developing a walking trail;
- Constructing a pavilion with restrooms;
- Installing new playground equipment.

The Road Tax Fund budget includes:

- Dixie Highway miscellaneous curbs;
- Grace Avenue sewer line and partial reconstruction;
- Requardt Avenue reconstruction;
- Cornell Avenue extension reconstruction;
- Chelsea Lane concrete repair;
- Dale Court resurfacing;
- Avon Drive resurfacing (Buttermilk Pike to Summit Ave.);
- Summit Avenue resurfacing (Avon Dr. to Chelsea Ln.);
- Clay resurfacing;
- Virginia Avenue resurfacing;
- Royal Drive reconstruction.

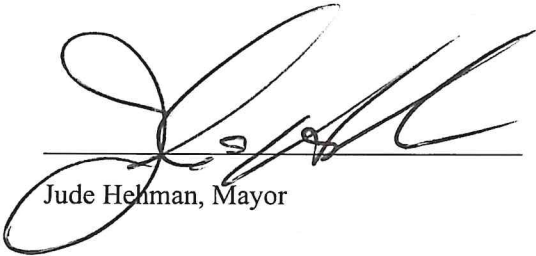
The Capital Replacement Fund budget includes:

- Roof replacement of older sections of the city building;
- Fire department kitchen, plumbing and hallway renovation;
- Public Works building design;
- Public Work's front fence replacement;
- Electronic sign to improve communication with residents;
- Two police vehicles;
- Two EMS cardiac monitors;
- Fire fighter breathing apparatus fill station;
- Public Works pickup truck.

Mr. Pohlgeers stated he is pleased with the budget and that we are committed to paying competitive wages to police and fire in this budget. Ms. Boerger agreed and said that we also need to provide the equipment that they need to do their job. Mr. Deatherage stated that these are primary services that taxpayers are looking for. Mayor Hehman stated that he is also concerned about public works wages since companies are paying higher wages. Ms. Burns wanted to thank the police department for being observant and doing vacation checks three times a day.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deatherage made a motion to adjourn the City Council Meeting and Ms. Burns seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there was any discussion or questions and hearing none, Mayor Jude Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed with all ayes.



Jude Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:

Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer