

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017  
March 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Mayor Jude Hehman called the regular council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led 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: Jeff Dietrich, Jerry Deatherage, Greg Pohlgeers, Dr. Alyson Roeding, and Michael Stoeckle. Vickie Boerger and Kim Nachazel were absent. Mayor Hehman stated that a quorum was present.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Attorney, Olivia Amlung; City Administrator, Edwin King; City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther; Police Chief, Rob Nader; Fire Chief, Adam Fuller; Public Works Director, Nick Tewes and Programs Coordinator, Joe Christofield.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes and Mr. Pohlgeers seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor 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 February 27, 2023, minutes. Mr. Dietrich stated that there was a correction to those minutes, regarding a recommendation to add a ten-second arrow on Highland and Dixie Highway for cars turning south. Mr. Dietrich stated that he felt the meeting minutes suggested drivers coming off Highland would turn south on Dixie when it's really the reverse with drivers going south on Dixie Highway and turning left onto Highland Avenue. Mayor Hehman stated the new minutes would reflect that change. Mr. Dietrich made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. Mr. Pohlgeers abstained since he did not attend the February 27th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS**

Cub Scout Troop 717, from Saint Barbara's Church, were in attendance to earn their Citizenship Badge.

Mr. Deatherage stated that the former Executive Director of DCCH, Bob Wilson, retired and that the new Executive Director, Denise Gordan, was in attendance. Ms. Gordan introduced herself and stated that her previous work experience was with the Life Learning Center, Brighton Center and Transitions Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center.

**AUDIT PRESENTATION**

Mayor Hehman introduced the City's auditor Stephanie Huhn, with Bramel & Ackley. Ms. Huhn stated that the City received an unmodified or clean opinion for the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The audited financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects and in accordance with all generally accepted accounting principles. Ms. Huhn also stated that no instances of noncompliance were found during the audit. Ms. Huhn thanked Amy Guenther and her staff.



### CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Amlung performed a second reading of **Ordinance 2023-02 Amending Fort Mitchell Z21 Zoning Ordinance**. Mr. King stated that this ordinance cleans up previous language and allows coin laundries as a conditional use in highway commercial zones near the US Bank building. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approval Ordinance 2023-02 and Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dietrich	Yes	Mr. Deatherage	Yes
Dr. Roeding	Yes	Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes		

Ms. Amlung performed a second reading of **Ordinance 2023-03 Amending Buttermilk Pike/Royal Drive Development Area** to replace and substitute the Fort Mitchell Economic Development Authority as the agency of the development area with the city's administration and approve a second amendment to the local participation agreement date and the activation date of the development area. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-03 and Mr. Pohlgeers seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dietrich	Yes	Mr. Deatherage	Yes
Dr. Roeding	Yes	Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes		

Ms. Amlung performed a first reading of **Ordinance 2023-04 Amending Animal Control Penalties and Reporting Requirements** related to vicious and loose animals. Mayor Hehman stated that one of the things he likes about the change to the Ordinance, is that the owner of the property will be notified of a vicious animal attack. There were also changes made to this Ordinance, reverting the fines back to the previous amounts, and only making the new \$200 fine apply to a vicious animal provision of the ordinance. The City has elected not to identify particular dog breeds in the ordinance. Dr. Roeding asked if the City defines what is considered a vicious animal and Ms. Amlung stated that there are chapters in the original code that define this.

Steve McClimon, Pam Rouster and Sharon Swedenberg of Fort Mitchell Place stated that they strongly encourage the City to increase fines for animal-related offenses. Mr. McClimon stated that in 2022 a Fort Mitchell Place resident's pit-bull mix attacked pets being walked by owners on seven separate occasions; many of these incidents were reported to the police and animal control. Mr. McClimon stated that the HOA of Fort Mitchell Place adopted a pet policy with fines of \$500 for a first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses. Mr. McClimon, with the support of his community's HOA, strongly encouraged the City to adopt this new ordinance and would like the City to encourage Kenton County to adopt stronger animal control penalties. Mayor Hehman stated that while the Fort Mitchell Place Board can enforce their own fines, the Fort Mitchell police cannot enforce them.

Ms. Amlung read **Resolution 2023-06 to authorize the Purchase of Police Body Cameras and Tasers**. Chief Nader stated that the Police Department currently has body and in-car cameras. The recordings are stored on a server and there are no redaction tools. Chief Nader stated that most police departments store these video recordings on a cloud, since there is unlimited storage. The cost for five years of cloud storage with Motorola with no redaction tools would be \$14,980 a year. Chief Nader contacted another company for a Command Central system with redaction tools. This company stated that the replacement of 16 new body cams and in-car cameras with no redaction tools would cost \$18,498 per year for five years. The police department purchased tasers in 2019 and have one final payment of \$11,000 due in September. Chief Nader then contacted Axon for pricing and Axon said they could bundle new tasers and body



cameras with unlimited cloud storage. Axon would waive the \$11,000 final taser payment. The cost would include technical assistance, training, and body cams that turn on automatically. Police would no longer have in-car cameras. The cost would be \$24,512.27 per year for the next ten years. If not purchased now, the price would increase \$11,000 in July. Mr. King stated that it makes financial sense to purchase from Axon because of the cloud storage capability. Mr. Deatherage stated that it also makes sense in labor time saved, since the police department would not have to spend time manually redacting information. Mr. Pohlgeers stated having top-quality body cameras is great for our police officers and the public and that it makes financial sense. Mayor Hehman stated the reason for the resolution is to be able to spend the money on the new equipment and that the budget would be amended for this amount. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06 and Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Amlung read **Resolution 2023-07 Private Drive Designation**. Mayor Hehman read a letter from a business owner requesting a private drive access to his business off of Grandview Drive which is currently Artillery Park Drive. The current Artillery Park Drive is going away due to an upcoming building development. He would like his business tenants to keep the same address to avoid additional expenses. No maintenance from the City is required on a private drive. Mr. King checked with Planning and Development Services (PDS), and they said this was allowable. Mr. Dietrich asked if the only traffic on the private drive would be for the businesses there; Mr. King confirmed that was correct. Ms. Amlung read Resolution 2023-07. Mr. Dietrich made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-07 and Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried with all ayes.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Hehman stated there was nothing new to report.

#### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Voting will be held again in the City Building for the upcoming May election.
- Requardt is out for bid. Some utility poles and gas lines will need to be moved. Bestway Disposal will start garbage pickup on Requardt and Virginia Avenue an hour earlier at 6:00 a.m. until construction is completed.
- The Kenton County PVA is presenting on the property valuation process to the public on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the City Building.

#### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Mr. Pohlgeers thanked the police and fire departments for their quick response during the recent incident at Bigby Coffee. Mr. Pohlgeers also addressed the cub scouts attending the meeting and stated that if they were interested in planning and zoning, he would be happy to set up some meetings for them.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT**

##### **City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther**

- Ms. Guenther stated that if anyone has any questions related to the audit to be sure to call her.

##### **Programs Director, Joe Christofield**

- On Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the City had a record attendance of 49 senior citizens attending bingo. The next scheduled Bingo is June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeside Park City Building.
- The Fort Mitchell-Lakeside Park Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the DCCH fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to noon. In case of bad weather, a decision to hold or cancel the event will be made and communicated by the morning of Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.



- The next scheduled Park Board Meeting will be Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- The community-wide yard sale will be held on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Residents who want to participate can register on the City of Fort Mitchell website.
- An announcement was made that the Grand Marshal for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade will be retiring Beechwood High School Football Coach Noel Rash.
- There are currently 15 reservations for General Ormsby Mitchel Park Pavilion.
- Beechwood Elementary School art students will be painting a mural on the wall (by the baseball field) at General Ormsby Mitchel Park starting April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting). There will be social media coverage as the work progresses.

**Public Works Director, Nick Tewes**

- Precision Concrete has been evaluating city sidewalks and preparing an inventory list with what sidewalks need work to be replaced. This includes sidewalks along Dixie Highway. The City should receive a report in a few weeks.
- The Requardt Lane project is out for bid. The street closes next Friday for gas line relocation and will take 2-3 weeks. Then utility poles will be relocated and water main construction before the road project will begin.

**Fire Chief, Adam Fuller**

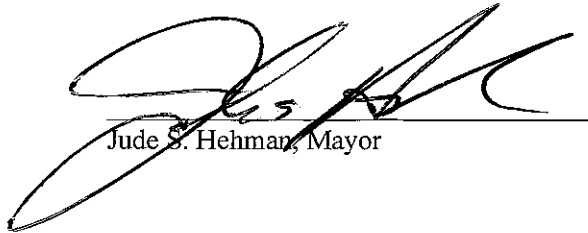
- Run volume stayed consistent.
- Norton's Healthcare will be doing car seat technician certification classes at the City Building, from March 21<sup>st</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>. On Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., the car seat technicians will be installing car seats for the public.
- Lieutenant Paul Wigger, Recruitment Coordinator Jeff Groneck and Chief Adam Fuller were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their response to the Eastern Kentucky floods last year.
- Chief Fuller will be retiring August 1, 2023. Mayor Hehman stated that Chief Fuller has done a great job and Chief Fuller thanked the Mayor and Council for all of the support he has been given.

**Police Chief, Rob Nader**

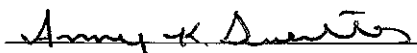
- There have been a number of car break-ins on Grace Ave to unlocked cars. Chief Nader stated that video cameras on homes are very helpful to police to solve crimes.
- The police department is getting a new detective car this week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:29 p.m. and Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion to adjourn passed with all ayes.

  
Jude S. Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:

  
Amy K. Gunther, City Clerk/Treasurer

