

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
May 22, 2023, 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 stated that the following council members were present: Vicki Boerger, Jeff Dietrich, Jerry Deatherage, Greg Pohlgeers, and Michael Stoeckle. Ms. Nachazel and Dr. Roeding were absent. A quorum of the City Council was in attendance.

OTHERS PRESENT

City Attorney, Olivia Amlung; City Administrator, Edwin King; City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther; Assistant City Clerk/Treasurer City Clerk, Casie Schawe; Police Chief, Rob Nader; 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. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Deatherage 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 1, 2023 minutes. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 council meeting. Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. After asking for discussion and hearing none, Mayor Jude Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed by all ayes.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Amlung read Ordinance 2023-06 Amending the Buttermilk Pike/Royal Drive Development Area Local Participation Agreement. Mr. King stated that this ordinance changes the effective date of the local participation agreement and the activation dates back to the original dates as requested by the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. Mr. King stated the Kentucky for Economic Development will not review the updated application until these new dates approved by Ordinance 2023-03 are deleted, so this needs to be done as soon as possible to avoid holding up the development. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance 2023-06 without a second reading based on KRS.83A.060(7) for the reasons set forth. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion.

Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Boerger	Yes	Mr. Deatherage	Yes
Mr. Dietrich	Yes	Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes		

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-06 Amending the Buttermilk Pike/Royal Drive Development Area Local Participation agreement deleting the new dates adopted in Ordinance 2023-03. Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion.

Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Boerger	Yes	Mr. Deatherage	Yes
Mr. Dietrich	Yes	Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes		

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mrs. Guenther reviewed the 2022-2023 amended budget and the 2023-2024 proposed budget detail that supports the budget summary.

General Fund-Revenue Include:

- Real Estate Taxes are budgeted to increase by 4%. Based on the compensating revenue calculation and the increased property value assessments by Kenton County PVA, the city general real estate tax rate will decrease.
- Insurance Premium Taxes and City Contractual Revenue are budgeted to increase by 3%.
- Payroll Taxes are budgeted to decrease due to a loss of a business and a one-time large payment in 2022 for payroll taxes.
- Utility Franchise Taxes are budgeted to increase 6%.
- Investment Income is budgeted to be \$220,000 due to the City's checking account earning 4.75% interest.
- Loan proceeds with a 0% interest loan will be recorded for \$250,471 for police body cameras and tasers that will be paid off over 10 years.
- Grant Revenue includes \$1,000,000 in pass thru CDBG grants for Redwood Rehabilitation and Diocesan Catholic Childrens Home (DCCH), \$552,000 of ARPA grants, \$130,000 FEMA SAFER grants and various other smaller grants.

General Fund Expenditure Budget Includes:

- Increase employee pay rates by an average of 6% to remain competitive with other cities and counties.
- There will be no increase in health insurance rates.
- Kentucky retirement contributions decreased from 26.79% to 23.34% for nonhazardous and 49.59% to 43.69% for hazardous employees.
- City of Ethics and leadership training is budgeted in the general government department.
- \$30,000 for a maintenance company to perform regular building upkeep since the new part of the building and the renovations are eight years old.
- A Single Audit will be required that will increase the audit costs due to the City spending greater than \$750,000 of federal grants.

- \$1,000,000 in pass through CDBG grant expenditures are budgeted for Redwood and DCCH.
- Dixie Highway Tree removal and replacement project will continue.
- Police body cameras and tasers will be purchased.
- The police department will use forfeiture funds for awards and challenge coins for employee appreciation.
- The fire and EMS department budget includes \$130,000 of FEMA SAFER grant expenses to continue to pay for the volunteer recruitment coordinator along with tuition, books, uniforms and supplies for college interns.
- LED lights are included in the public works budget for one street to do a return-on-investment analysis.
- The public works department plans to purchase a Bobcat Planer and replace some benches and trash receptacles.
- An additional concert has been added to the recreation budget.

Municipal Road Aid Fund budget includes:

- \$100,000 is budgeted for sidewalks.
- \$33,720 for the third and final payment for Bromley/crescent Spring Road.
- \$100,000 for the Beechwood Road (Dixie to Thompson) safety project.
- \$100,000 for Park Road improvements.

Park Tax Fund budget includes:

- Construction wrap up.
- Seed, soil, and mulch.
- \$15,000 for safer bleachers recommended by insurance risk management.

Road Tax Fund budget includes:

- 30% increase in road real estate taxes
- \$133,000 or cost share revenue
- \$2,000,000 for Royal Drive reconstruction
- \$400,000 for Requardt reconstruction
- \$690,000 for Cherrywood Drive reconstruction
- \$60,000 for Avon/Chelsea engineering and design
- \$360,000 for resurfacing of Virginia Ave., West Maple Ave., Fortside Circle, East Orchard Ave., and Leslie Ave.

Capital Projects Fund budget includes:

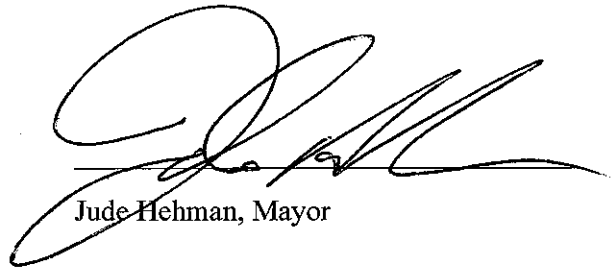
- \$1,910,000 for fire kitchen remodeling and basement flooring, plumbing and ceiling,
- \$75,000 for administrative office generator
- \$15,000 for backlot public works fence
- \$160,000 for two police vehicles with upfitting
- \$100,000 for a Ford F550 small dump truck
- \$60,000 for a Ford F250 public works department truck
- \$70,000 for a crack sealer

Mayor Hehman stated that the public works department is going to replace the large dump truck with a smaller dump truck to be more versatile and to cut down on commercial driving license costs.

Ms. Boerger asked why the general and administrative budget and the recreation budgets increased by over 7%. Ms. Guenther stated that the administrative budget increased due to the CDBG pass thru grants for Easterseals Redwood and Diocesan Catholic Children's Home. Mr. Christofield stated that since the Park is complete and the COVID emergency has ended, this will be the first full year of events.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the City Council Meeting and Mr. Deatherage 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