

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET MEETING
FIRE BAY – FIRE TRAINING ROOM
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
May 20, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Jude Hehman called the regular council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Deatherage led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Hehman called roll. The following council members were present: Jerry Deatherage, Jeff Dietrich, Kim Nachazel, Greg Pohlgeers, Alyson Roeding, and Mike Stoeckle. Ms. Vicki Boeger was absent. Mayor Hehman stated a quorum of the City Council was in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. After asking if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Hehman stated that the minutes would be approved at the next meeting.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Mayor Hehman welcomed citizens and guests and explained that the meeting will begin with Cherrywood sidewalk/construction project discussion and then a short recess. The council will reconvene in the training room downstairs for the council budget meeting. Mayor Hehman stated that no official voting will take place during this meeting.

Mayor Hehman shared that in the 1990's, many streets in Fort Mitchell did not have sidewalks, and a committee was formed during that time to address safety and the need for engineering sidewalks for road projects. Mayor Hehman acknowledged the petition presented by residents reflecting that they do not want sidewalks and that they feel it is safe without them. Mayor Hehman stated that the budget he is presenting to council does not include the sidewalks and assured those present that if the people speak, council will listen.

Beechwood student Brett Pfaehler shared that she surveyed 110 classmates, finding that 80 percent were in favor of sidewalks and felt they would improve the neighborhood. Ms. Pfaehler asked if there could be speed bumps if there were no sidewalks.

Resident Roger Kuchle shared that due to the lack of through traffic, sidewalks were not warranted and suggested that sidewalks could make it more dangerous for kids on scooters. Mr. Kuchle stated that he observes small groups of people walking side by side talking and does not feel that sidewalks would be appropriate for that kind of walking.

David Pfaehler expressed support for sidewalks. Mr. Pfaehler shared that having sidewalks would not only affect safety for Cherrywood residents, but for others who come from surrounding streets and neighborhoods to walk.

Cherrywood resident Brook Walters shared that he walks every day and feels that they do not need sidewalks. Mr. Walters spoke of the damaged sidewalks we already have and feels they should be fixed before putting in new ones. Mayor Hehman shared that about 12 years ago the responsibility for repairing and maintaining sidewalks was shifted from the homeowners to the city.

Resident Tom Koenig asked about the number of EMS runs and police runs regarding speeding in the neighborhood.

Rita Eubanks stated that the flow of sidewalks into traffic would not be good there.

Bob Kaiser, stated his daughter uses a wheelchair, and he feels that sidewalks would facilitate safer conditions for people who use wheelchairs or have mobility issues. Mr. Kaiser spoke of someone who was hurt a few weeks ago and mentioned disregard for stop signs and no parking signs near corners in the neighborhood.

RECESS

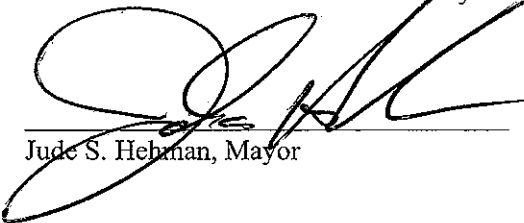
Dr. Roeding made a motion to take a 15-minute recess before the City Council reconvenes downstairs for review of the budget. Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET

Ms. Guenther reviewed the budget. The budget includes an average wage increase of 5%. The healthcare quotes came in at a 50% increase due to Humana leaving the market. Kentucky mandated retirement contributions decreased. Mr. Deatherage stated that he thinks the Mayor's pay should be increased from \$5,000 for the next Mayor's term. Ms. Guenther stated that we can use the salary survey to see what other cities pay.

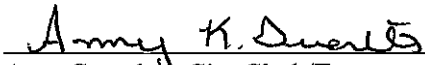
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote and the motion carried unanimously.



Jude S. Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:



Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer