

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
September 9, 2024, 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: Vicki Boerger, Jerry Deatherage, Jeff Dietrich, Kim Nachazel, Greg Pohlgeers, and Dr. Alyson Roeding. Mike Stoeckle was absent. Mayor Hehman stated a quorum of the City Council was in attendance.

OTHERS PRESENT

Acting City Attorney, Casimir Thornberry; City Administrator, Edwin King; City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther; Fire Chief, Dave Slusser; and Police Chief, Rob Nader.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were noted. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any corrections to the August 26, 2024, minutes. No corrections were noted. Ms. Boerger made a motion to approve the August 26, 2024, council meeting minutes. Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. After asking if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Mayor Hehman stated he appreciates and welcomes citizens bringing issues to council for discussion.

Mr. Jeb Holbrook came forward to speak about parking issues on West Maple Avenue near the Jeff Wyler/Mercedes-Benz of Fort Mitchell. Mr. Holbrook shared that there are a large number of cars parked on the dealership lot, not allowing enough parking for the 93 employees who have been instructed by management to park on West Maple, where street parking is limited. Mr. Holbrook also shared concerns about cars and semis parked in the fire lane and in the middle of Dixie Highway unloading vehicles, resulting in possible fire and zoning violations. Mr. Holbrook shared a feeling of disrespect shown toward the residents of West Maple and stated this is a nuisance.

Mayor Hehman stated that along with business/economic development comes some potential parking concerns in residential areas and stated that employees are allowed to park on public streets. Mayor Hehman encouraged communication to foster good, neighborly relationships.

Ms. Nachazel stated that she has not noticed any parking issues on West Maple, aside from a period of time when there was a sidewalk project and some home improvements in progress.

Don Paparella, General Manager of Mercedes-Benz of Fort Mitchell, mentioned that the business occupies seven acres, not 13 acres as stated by Mr. Holbrook, and feels its presence has been for the betterment of Fort Mitchell

and Northern Kentucky. Mr. Paparella shared that he has roughly 90 employees, including some that are Fort Mitchell residents. Mr. Paparella stated that Mr. Holbrook has taken pictures of and bullied some of his employees and feels that is not acceptable. There has been a recent influx of Sprinters delivered to the dealership lot, resulting in the need for a few employees to park on the street. Mr. Paparella has instructed employees to park in a manner that will not block driveways and delivery drivers not to unload in the streets. Mr. Paparella has made donations to a local church that allows the dealership to park cars on their lot. Fire Chief Slusser stated that the "fire lane" is private and that there are not issues with pulling emergency vehicles into the lot.

Ms. Nachazel and Ms. Boerger suggested that residents should call the police to handle situations of cars blocking driveways.

Mr. Pohlgeers shared he does not feel that the parking on West Maple is currently an issue, and if it does become an issue, the City will deal with it.

Mayor Hehman suggested that a picnic in the fall with the dealership and West Maple residents could be helpful to foster good relationships.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hehman congratulated Edwin King for recently completing boot camp and training for the United States Coast Guard Reserves and thanked him for his service to both the city and our country.

Mayor Hehman met with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet regarding the Drawbridge area right-of-way. There will be a construction fence going up around the property. Mayor Hehman will bring an Executive Order and eventually an Ordinance to council to close Royal Drive during construction. Once a timeline has been established, residents and businesses will be notified, and a ground-breaking ceremony will be held. Mr. King shared that the bond closing for the project is to take place in October.

Ted Edgington, the Director of Safety for the catholic schools of the Diocese of Covington, was introduced to council and the Mayor to speak about his role in keeping schools safe and to discuss the possibility of having a school resource officer at Blessed Sacrament Elementary School. Mayor Hehman asked if the Diocese is willing to contribute to the expense of having a school resource officer. Mr. Edgington clarified that Blessed Sacrament would individually be responsible for paying a large portion of the salary of the officer. Mr. Pohlgeers stated he feels the city should bear some of the responsibility for protecting schools in our city, referencing the recent school shootings. Dr. Roeding and Ms. Nachazel agreed that the city should explore this further. Mr. King stated that the school resource officer position would not be considered full-time and would be an hourly position needed only when the students are in school, which equates to about 180 days per year. Training for this officer could take place during the summer. Mr. Deatherage asked, "What is the risk if we do not provide the service?" Mayor Hehman stated that the city would bear some risk and expense for things like training and illness. Mr. Edgington stated that the desired timetable would be as soon as possible this year. Mayor Hehman clarified that the cost of having a student resource officer at Blessed Sacrament would include a vehicle and equipment. Mr. Edgington stated that St. Pius pays \$36,000, St. Catherine pays \$35,500 and Newport Catholic and Bishop Brossart pays \$55,000 per year. The Mayor stated that the City would develop a budget.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. King stated that the Kenton County Planning Commission had a meeting on Thursday, September 5, for a zoning change requested at 221 Grandview, to allow for a memory care facility. Mr. King anticipates a first reading for this to be in October. Mayor Hehman is partial owner of the property at 221 Grandview and will be selling it.

The buyer of the property is requesting the zoning change. When the discussion of zoning for this property comes before council, Mayor Hehman will excuse himself and have someone else run the meeting during that time.

The new HVAC system has been installed and is working.

Mr. King shared the following recreation updates for Programs & Communication Coordinator, Joe Christofield:

- Bingo for Seniors is scheduled for September 10, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., in the City of Fort Mitchell council chamber for Fort Mitchell and Lakeside Park seniors.
- The annual Hero Night event will be held on Tuesday, October 1, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at DCCH fairgrounds.
- The Cincinnati Observatory at the Park event will be held on Saturday, October 5, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- The Halloween Fun & Flick event will take place at General Ormsby Mitchel Park on Saturday, October 19, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and will include activities from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by a viewing of the movie Hocus Pocus.

Mr. King shared the following Public Works updates for Public Works Director, Nick Tewes:

- The Cherrywood project will be completed by the end of September.
- The speed hump on Beechwood Road will be installed during the school's fall break.

Mayor Hehman stated that a Cherrywood Drive tree sustained significant damage during the road construction project.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Nachazel asked where additional speed humps could be utilized going forward. Mayor Hehman shared that he would like to try several types of speed humps in areas of the city where speeding has been an issue. Several council members mentioned that Pleasant Ridge Avenue and Burdsall Avenue are areas where they hear the most speeding complaints.

Ms. Nachazel stated that Alloy Fitness is a new business opening in Fort Mitchell offering group/personal training services.

Ms. Boerger stated that the Wall of Honor ceremony will take place at the city building on Saturday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m. Phil Dietz, Bill Brown, and former Fort Mitchell Police Chief Jeff Eldridge will be inducted. All three inductees are members of our community who have given a lot of their time and talent to the city and are well deserving of this honor. Mayor Hehman mentioned that Phil Dietz started the ALS program and Chief Eldridge was injured in the line of duty.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

City Clerk Treasurer, Amy Guenther

- Property tax information will be imported from Kenton County Property Valuation Administrator this week in order to get the tax bills out to residents within the next two weeks.

Fire Chief, Dave Slusser

- The city has not yet heard back on its application for the FEMA Safer Grant.

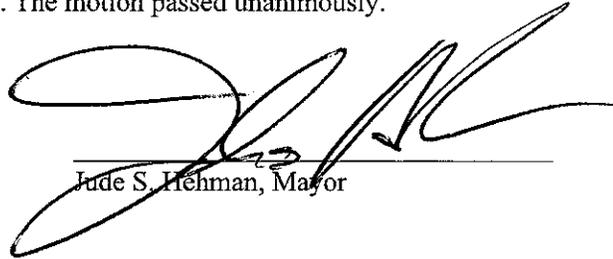
- All of the department's ladders and hydraulic rescue tools were recently tested and certified.

Police Chief, Rob Nader

- The reoccurring speeding complaints on Pleasant Ridge Avenue are still being monitored. Speed humps could be a consideration on Pleasant Ridge. Trees are obstructing views and need of trimming near Pleasant Ridge and Dixie Highway. Ms. Boerger stated that the speed sign near Blessed Sacrament is not visible.
- The department has applied for a law enforcement protection grant through the Kentucky Department of Homeland Security for funds to replace seven bullet-proof vests.
- One officer is still currently on light duty and will soon be returning to regular duty.
- Heros' Night will be held on October 1, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- K-9 officer, Gunny, and Officer Best will attend training next week. K-9 Gunny had a recent arrest.

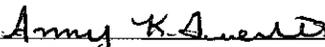
ADJOURNMENT

After asking if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at approximately 7:41 p.m. Ms. Nachazel seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.



Jude S. Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:


Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer