

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017  
October 14, 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, Jeff Dietrich, Kim Nachazel, Greg Pohlgeers, and Dr. Alyson Roeding. Mike Stoeckle and Jerry Deatherage were absent. Mayor Hehman stated a quorum of the City Council was in attendance.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the agenda. 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.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any corrections to the September 9, 2024, minutes. No corrections were noted. Mr. Dietrich made a motion to approve the September 9, 2024, council meeting minutes. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. After asking if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**DCCH APPRECIATION PRESENTATION TO CITY OF FORT MITCHELL**

Mayor Hehman introduced Denise Govan, President of DCCH: Therapy Dog, Buddy: Development Team Member, Jessica Thompson, and VP of Marketing and Development, Cass Patterson. Ms. Govan thanked Mayor Hehman, Mr. King, Council, and the City for applying for the \$405,320 CDBG grant. The grant funded 76.8% of their HVAC replacement. The DCCH team members presented the city with a painting made by the children, staff, and Buddy. Ms. Govan also thanked the police department and fire department for organizing the Raise the Roof golf outing fundraiser earlier this year.

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS**

Mayor Hehman stated that there would be a hot dog cookout on West Maple Avenue Thursday, October 17, for the residents to discuss any traffic issues.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Ms. Amlung performed a first reading of **Ordinance 2024-11 Adopting Kenton County Planning Commission's Recommendation of the Map Amendment to the Fort Mitchell Zoning Ordinance for a Proposed Senior Assisted Residential Living Facility** at 221 Grandview Drive. Crystal Wilmhoff spoke regarding the zoning change request on behalf of her business partner Marky Kennedy, MCL Housing Solutions,

and their residential assisted living homes to be named Stages of All Ages Assisted Living, LLC. Ms. Wilmhoff stated that the requested change was from a Business Park Zone to Community Commercial Zone which is needed for a senior dementia residential care facility and received a favorable recommendation from the Kenton County Planning Commission. Ms. Wilmhoff explained that the residential assisted living home will provide 24-hour caregiver support to seniors with their activities of daily living at a ratio of one caregiver for five to eight residents. Each resident will have their own private bedroom and bathroom. This facility will provide large community spaces, chef-prepared meals, housekeeping, laundry services, and group activities for residents. This development will consist of two one-story, 8,100 square foot home-like buildings with a courtyard and a large amount of green space. Each building will have 16 bedrooms. Ms. Wilmhoff outlined the benefits to the community including no additional students for Beechwood, tax revenue and the creation of 15-20 new jobs. Mr. King stated this is not a significant zone change.

Ms. Amlung read **Municipal Order 2024-06 Surplus of Fire and Police Equipment**. Mr. King stated the list of equipment for surplus includes old police radio equipment to be auctioned on GovDeals.com. Also, fire equipment will be donated to the state fire & rescue training. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-05. Ms. Nachazel seconded the motion. After asking if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Hehman stated that Ted Edgington, the Director of Safety for Diocese of Covington catholic schools, requested a Student Resource Officer (SRO) at Blessed Sacrament School. Mayor Hehman stated that the Beechwood Schools SRO was originally funded by a grant, and that the county has established reimbursement targets with other schools in the area, such as Holy Cross, Villa Madonna, and St. Pius. Mayor Hehman stated that it is important that the city contributes something for an SRO at Blessed Sacrament.

Father Damian Hils would like to improve the safety of the 435 children and 40 employees on their campus, and asked council for help with obtaining a SRO, at least part-time. Blessed Sacrament School Principal, Aileen Briggs, stated an additional benefit is for the children to spend time with first responders, in addition to the safety for the children. Father requested that council and the mayor discuss the possibility of providing an SRO. Mayor Hehman shared that the retire rehire program for police officers would be an advantage in obtaining an SRO for the school.

Mayor Hehman explained that the County Priority Projects Program (CPPP) provides funding for resurfacing city streets, and the application for this grant is due tomorrow. Mayor Hehman would like to submit an application for Summit Avenue, near Avon, in order to provide some additional access and road stability for the transportation department, given the upcoming changes on Buttermilk Pike. Mr. King stated there are no matching funds required, and it would involve applying for an \$87,000 grant to fund the project. Ms. Boerger and Dr. Roeding voiced that this project makes sense. No objections from council were voiced.

Mayor Hehman announced that the fire department would like to add Cole Lucas, the stepson of Assistant Chief Hampton, to their full-time staff, and stated that there would be two levels of supervisory authority below the Assistant Chief to which Cole would be reporting. No concerns were voiced. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the hiring of Cole Lucas. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. King reported that ground is moving at the old Drawbridge Site, and an official groundbreaking will take place in the next few weeks.

Mr. King stated that the Cherrywood project is complete, with the exception of some landscaping and turf replacement. Ms. Nachazel mentioned that Riegler Blacktop did a good job and was very communicative throughout the project.

### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Ms. Nachazel stated the Safety Committee met to discuss speed hump placement, and there has been positive feedback regarding the Beechwood speed hump.

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT**

#### **Public Works Director, Nick Tewes**

- The Beechwood speed hump has been striped and properly signed.
- Kenton County will be striping and installing thermo on Beechwood Road from Dixie Highway all the way to the city limits.
- The new Public Works Laborer, Brian Vercheak, started on Monday, October 7, and will be working at the park. Mr. Vercheak has previous parks experience.
- Dr. Roeding asked about looking at sidewalk repairs on Stonewell Trail.

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

- Property tax bills are due on October 31, 2024.

#### **Programs & Communication Coordinator, Joe Christofield**

- The annual Haunt Your House Halloween decorating contest will take place from Friday, October 18, through Sunday, October 20.
- The Halloween Fun & Flick event will be held 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.
- The Veterans Day Parade, in collaboration with Beechwood, will take place on November 11, at 9:30 a.m., starting at the swim club, proceeding down Beechwood Road toward Dixie Highway.

#### **Fire Chief, Dave Slusser**

- The ladder truck was struck by another vehicle on I-275 on September 27, and currently remains in service today. The claim for repair has been approved by the insurance company, and the truck will soon be out of service for a few weeks while repairs are made.
- An ambulance has been out of service for about a month, as the fuel injectors were replaced. The parts have been ordered.
- The city will not be awarded the SAFER grant this year. The current FEMA funding runs through November 23, 2024, but the goal is to continue the volunteer recruitment tuition program currently funded by this grant with some modifications.

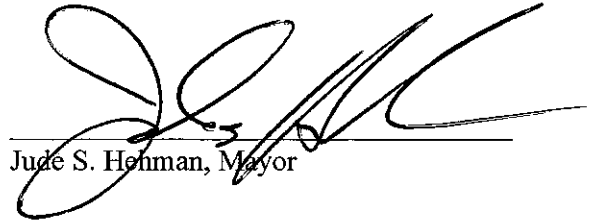
#### **Police Chief, Rob Nader**

- Keep doors locked and lights on since it is darker earlier.
- Keys should not be left in cars, to reduce car thefts.
- Some political signs have been stolen.
- The department was awarded an Attorney General's grant for six new bullet-proof vests.

- Mayor Hehman mentioned he was recently asked about the department having a full-time detective. Chief Nader stated the case load warrants the need for a detective. Detective Hamblin's current case load is 25.
- Ms. Boerger commented on the assistance the department recently provided to a friend of hers with a family situation, and that the officers involved were very kind and compassionate.

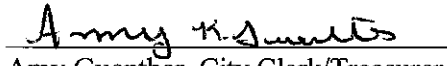
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Roeding made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at approximately 7:18 p.m. Ms. Boerger 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