

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017  
December 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, Dr. Alyson Roeding, and Mike Stoeckle. Mayor Hehman stated that 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. Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. After asking if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any corrections to the November 11, 2024, minutes. No corrections were noted. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the November 11, 2024, council meeting minutes. Mr. Stoeckle 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 asked whether any of the citizens or guests had questions or concerns to bring before the Council. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman introduced the scheduled guests from the Kentucky Department of Transportation. Stacey Hands, the Kentucky Department of Transportation (KDOT) Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project Manager, and Nikki Boden of the Design Build Team, spoke about the implementation of roundabouts versus signal intersections off the I-75 expressway. She stated that the Construction Manager is Corey Wildon. Ms. Boden stated that statistics show that roundabouts are the safest intersection, because they bring an atmosphere of calming to the traffic at these intersections. A preliminary base design was presented.

Ms. Boden stated the benefits of roundabouts versus signal intersections:

- Roundabouts reduce conflict points and head-on collisions by 75%.
- Motorists drive slower in a roundabout.
- The traffic calming of a roundabout reduces pedestrian crashes by 30% and injury by 40%.
- The driver has only one direction instead of two places to look.
- A traffic signal delays morning drives 14.5 seconds whereas with a roundabout the driver is delayed 6.2 seconds. In the afternoon, the variation is 11.9 versus 4.5 seconds.
- There are a lot of pedestrian events here in Fort Mitchell. In a roundabout, the walkers only cross one lane at a time, not several as they do with signalized intersections.
- Traffic will only be coming from one direction for the pedestrians.
- The traffic model shows that the roundabout will not cause backup onto the expressway.

Mayor Hehman stated that one of the areas of concern is a light going through northbound lanes, that is an acceleration lane. On the other side where the crosswalk is, the driver is also in an acceleration lane. Those cars are entering the expressway, thus speeding up. Ms. Boden responded that the roundabout would provide calming; however, KDOT will consider that concern. Ms. Nachazel asked whether there is a safe area for the walkers to stack up because the cars will keep moving. Ms. Hands suggested telling your child to make eye contact with the driver before crossing. Ms. Nachazel asked whether we can depend on a 10-year-old making eye contact with a driver since people get distracted. If the driver has a reason to stop, they are more likely to make eye contact with any walkers.

Mr. Deatherage stated that car drivers may not yield to pedestrians. Drivers are trained to look for the signal ahead. When they see a red light, they slow down. The free movement of a roundabout is concerning. Ms. Boden pointed out refuge islands on the plan, which would provide a place for pedestrians to wait for openings. Mayor Hehman likes the fact that a physical barrier will exist. The rendering does not show the safety area. In the eastbound movement on Dixie Highway, pedestrians will have the center refuge.

Ms. Hands stated that the bridge work will be done off-line so traffic can still drive on Dixie Highway. All the standard signing and lighting will be in place to alert drivers about foot travelers. The rendering does not show that. Mayor Hehman said that our Safety Committee advised us to put in speed humps and that has had a calming effect in busy areas. Ms. Boden stated that KDOT would work with their traffic engineers on crosswalks and intersections.

Ms. Hands stated that NKU has a roundabout that is similar in size to this proposed roundabout. The Fort Mitchell roundabout will require a more reduced speed. Mr. Stoeckle said that many people are not sure what to do in a roundabout. Mr. Pohlgeers asked whether KDOT would entertain the concept of a pedestrian overpass. Ms. Hands stated that this would be cost prohibitive, but it will be considered. The State is open to ideas, but they are trying to stay within the footprint they have designed.

Mayor Hehman believes that many drivers are going to come up the exit ramp and get right back on the expressway. Ms. Hands stated that the existing bridge will be used for local traffic and the companion bridge for interstate traffic. The bridges will be independent of each other. In times of heavy traffic, the driver can save time by going through the roundabout and re-entering the expressway. Ms. Boden stated that one other positive which is shown would be the visual off-alignment option.

Ms. Boden stated that the duration of construction was originally 3 years. In the roundabout situation, most of this will be built off-line and will reduce construction time by a year. Mr. Pohlgeers stated that the renderings are beautiful.

Mayor Hehman asked the audience for questions or comments. One resident, Dora Vorhare, stated that when there is a wreck on the express way, people will drive on Dixie Highway to get around the accident. Ms. Vorhare asked the following questions. What are those implications? How many actual accidents have occurred in that area? Have there been any fatalities? Ms. Boden responded that they are using existing national data and police reports averages and have forecasted out to 2049 to see what the impact could be in the future.

Ms. Boden stated that the lower speed in the roundabout will contribute to safety. The setting of this intersection being close to a school is not unique. It was also considered whether the community wants to use a roundabout, how the intersection functions, and how Dixie Highway operates. Ms. Vorhare asked whether there is a way to put raised sidewalks in the intersection by Mercedes Benz in order to slow cars down.

Ms. Boden stated that there will be a 60% design submittal next summer. The design review process will begin late spring. Ms. Nachazel asked if the lanes will be narrower in the roundabout than in straight lanes. Ms. Boden stated that the design matches Dixie Highway's current lane width and the traffic circle encourages the passenger vehicles to stay in their lane but gives the truck drivers a bit of space to maneuver. Some of the shoulders are a bit tighter and a new barrier will slow drivers.

Mayor Hehman stated that the stone and Fort Mitchell shield will be added to the wall. Mr. Pohlgeers appreciated receiving so much good information. Ms. Boden stated roundabouts or signal light intersections need to be determined by the end of 2024.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Ms. Amlung performed a second reading of **Ordinance 2024-12 An Ordinance Establishing Regular City Council Meeting Dates for the 2025 Calendar Year**. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-12; Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Boerger	Yes	Mr. Deatherage	Yes
Mr. Dietrich	Yes	Ms. Nachazel	Yes
Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes	Dr. Roeding	Yes
Mr. Stoeckle	Yes		

Ms. Amlung performed a reading of **Municipal Order 2024-07: Re-Appointment of Alyson Roeding as representative and Jude Hehman as alternate to OKI Board**. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-07; Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung performed a reading of **Municipal Order 2024-08: Re-Appointment of Greg Pohlgeers as representative and Jude Hehman as alternate to PDS Council**. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-08; Ms. Nachazel seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung performed a reading of **Municipal Order 2024-09: Appointment of Jeff Dietrich to the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky**. Dr. Roeding made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-09; Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung performed a reading of **Municipal Order 2024-10: Re-Appointment of Carol Buckhout to Ethics Board**. Ms. Nachazel made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-10; Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung performed a reading of **Municipal Order 2024-11: Re-Appointment of Glen Rice, Aimee Wulfeck, and Jeff Epplen to Park Board**. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-11; Mr. Stoeckle seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung performed a reading of **Municipal Order 2024-12: Re-Appointment of Bill Reis, Chris Zowtiak, and Keaton Brownstead to the Tree Commission**. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-12; Ms. Nachazel seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a roll vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hehman stated that the Council appreciates KDOT coming in to illustrate the changes and answer questions. KDOT needs answers regarding lights or roundabouts by the end of this month to proceed with engineering.

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

Mayor Hehman recognized Mike Stoeckle for his service on City Council since 2015. Mr. Stoeckle has been involved with the Park Board, Safety Committee, the Wall of Honor Committee, and our representative for the

Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky. Mayor Hehman said that he sincerely appreciates all of Mr. Stoeckle's work for the City. Mr. Stoeckle stated that he's glad to help out when he can, but with traveling for work 8-10 weeks at a time, it is difficult. Mr. Stoeckle has been in the city for 31 years, and he wants to thank everyone. A round of applause followed. Mayor Hehman presented Mr. Stoeckle with an award, thanking him for his dedication and service.

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

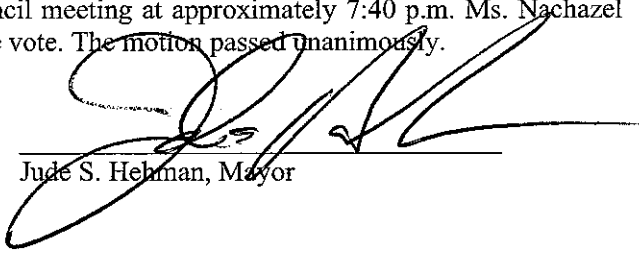
- Mr. King reported that the City is building a salt pad to help the Public Works crew respond quickly to storm events.
- The annual audit has started.
- Please complete and return the ethics forms to the auditors.

#### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**


Ms. Boerger stated that she wants to ensure that they incorporate as many pedestrian safety features as possible on the new overpass

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Stoeckle made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m. Ms. Nachazel seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

  
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Jude S. Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:

  
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Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer