

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
FEBRUARY 3, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Jude Hehman called the council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The mayor introduced Beechwood School Young Marine, Sergeant Major Abigail Smith, who presented the colors. Mayor Hehman asked everyone to rise and say 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: Jared Arlinghaus, Vicki Boerger, Jeff Dietrich, Kim Nachazel, and Greg Pohlgeers. Jerry Deatherage and Dr. Alyson Roeding were absent. 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; Assistant Fire Chief, Jeff Hampton; Public Works Director, Nick Tewes; and Police Chief, Rob Nader.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the mayor called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the agenda, and Mr. Dietrich 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 January 13, 2025, minutes. No corrections were noted. Ms. Boerger made a motion to approve the January 13, 2025 council meeting minutes. 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.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Mayor Hehman recognized Marine Sergeant Major Abby Smith from the Young Marine Corp. Ms. Nachazel recognized Sergeant Major Smith for her many contributions to the community. Mayor Hehman presented a Proclamation, declaring that Abby Smith, Division 3 Young Marine has represented dedication, leadership and commitment to her peers and community. Sergeant Major Smith is an honor student, a strong athlete in golf, softball, and bowling and inspires young marines across divisions. Mayor Hehman proclaimed February 3, 2025, "Abby Smith Day" in the City of Fort Mitchell. Sergeant Major Smith expressed her appreciation to her school and community for their support.

Mayor Hehman asked whether any of the citizens or guests had questions or concerns to bring before the Council. Bob Kaiser requested that the City place an additional garbage can on the east side of Dixie Highway between Blessed Sacrament and the cemetery. Mayor Hehman stated that the City will be replacing the older garbage cans and will take this into consideration. Also, Mr. Kaiser would like to put a note in the newsletter reminding people to clean their windshields before driving in bad weather and remind drivers to watch out for pedestrians. Mr. Kaiser was hit by someone who did not see him walking because their windshield was not cleared.

Mayor Hehman asked whether any other citizens or guests had questions or concerns to bring before the Council. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman proceeded with the meeting.

Audit Presentation

Mayor Hehman introduced Stephanie Huhn of Bramel and Ackley CPA's for the presentation of Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Ms. Huhn reviewed the financial statements and

reports. Bramel and Ackley issued an unmodified opinion on the City's audited financial statements. A single audit was performed. No internal control deficiencies were identified. Mayor Hehman stated that we are fortunate in the fact that we have a big enough city that we can have segregation of duties to have checks and balances. Mr. King stated that the Tax Incremental Financing activity will be run through a separate fund. Mr. Pohlgeers made the motion to approve the audit, and Mr. Dietrich seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Amlung presented **Resolution 2025-01 Opposing Centralized Collection of Occupational License Fees and Taxes**. Mayor Hehman stated as a small business owner and being on the Executive Board of the Kentucky League of Cities, he has had a lot of discussions about this. This resolution would be taking away powers, checks and balances from the city. Do we trust the state to collect this money and to properly allocate the revenue to the different cities? From a business standpoint, it would streamline occupational tax filing. Crescent Springs, Fort Wright, and Taylor Mill have passed this resolution and other cities are discussing this. Mayor Hehman stated that he does not support the State collecting counties' and cities' occupational taxes. Mr. Pohlgeers, Mr. Dietrich and Ms. Boerger agreed it would be easier for local citizens to resolve issues with Kenton County rather than with the State.

Mr. Dietrich stated he would like to streamline this process and cannot make a decision until he sees the verbiage the legislation contains. If a business crosses over a city or county, you must file additional returns. The centralized system may be easier, but if the state does not audit then this will not work like it should.

Mayor Hehman stated that the State does not have infrastructure in place and the tax rates are different in each city and county. Ms. Nachazel stated that it would make owning a business easier, but it is not too difficult to file different cities. The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) is asking cities to oppose this legislation. Ms. Boerger made a motion to approve **Resolution 2025-01 opposing centralized collection of occupational license fees and taxes**. Mr. Pohlgeers seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman requested a voice vote. The motion passed with ayes from Mr. Arlinghaus, Ms. Boerger, Ms. Nachazel, and Mr. Pohlgeers. A nay vote was made by Mr. Dietrich. Motion carried by majority rule.

Ms. Amlung presented **Resolution 2025-02: Accept the Employee Handbook/Personnel Policy**. Mr. King engaged KLC to rewrite our personnel policy. Some policies were kept in place, and some were rewritten. The summary section highlights the revisions that were made. Mr. King replied that he consulted Ms. Amlung on several issues, one of them being the medical cannabis issue at the city level if the state law changes. Ms. Boerger stated in reading through it, every aspect was touched on. Mr. Dietrich made a motion to accept this resolution, and Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The ambulance bid came in at \$345,000. It will take 900 days to receive the ambulance. This will bound future councils and budgets, so it's a good protocol to continue to discuss it. The delivery time would be August 2027 at the latest. Mr. Pohlgeers asked whether we have a backup ambulance, and Assistant Chief Hampton stated that we always have two ambulances in service. The older one is considered the backup. Mr. Pohlgeers asked what would the City do we do if one ambulance blows an engine or gets totaled? Mayor Hehman stated that the county has a spare ambulance, if needed. The mayor asked for a **motion to order a new ambulance and sign the contract**. Mr. Pohlgeers made the motion, and Ms. Nachazel seconded it. Mayor Hehman asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hehman stated that KLC Day in Frankfort is February 26. In the past, our attendees have found that there are so many cities involved, it is better to go on a different day. Representatives of the council may go a couple of times this year. Let Mr. King know if you are interested.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mr. King reported that the West Maple project was put out for bid. The bids are due next week.
- Ms. Guenther, Ms. Stacy, and Mr. King have been working with the County on setting up the automated reporting system of the TIF fund revenue collections.
- Construction of the Gateway project continues.

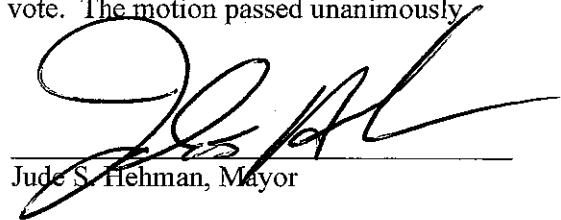
CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Ms. Nachazel stated that the Safety Council plans to meet after the planning session.
- Ms. Nachazel stated that council agreed to put some speed humps on Thompson, Burdsall, and Pleasant Ridge. Mr. Dietrich asked whether we have received any feedback regarding the speed hump on Beechwood. Ms. Nachazel stated that she has been positive feedback.
- Ms. Boerger mentioned an issue with the large trucks on the residential streets due to the construction at Drawbridge and requested signage posted.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT-There were no department head reports.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at approximately 7:15 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