

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
AUGUST 11, 2025, 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: Jared Arlinghaus, Jerry Deatherage, Jeff Dietrich, Kim Nachazel, Greg Pohlgeers, and Dr. Alyson Roeding. Vicki Boerger was absent. Mayor Hehman stated that a quorum of the City Council was in attendance.

OTHERS PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, called for a voice vote. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any changes to the minutes for July 14, 2025. Hearing none, Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2025, council meeting. Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, called for a voice vote. Mayor Hehman stated that the motion carried.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

None.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Amlung performed the second reading of **Ordinance 2025-07: Amending Chapter 72 of the Fort Mitchell Code of Ordinances Relating to Parking Regulations**. Mayor Hehman stated that this is the second reading. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve, and Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. Mayor Hehman stated that the motion carried.

Ms. Boerger	Absent	Mr. Deatherage	Yes
Mr. Dietrich	Yes	Ms. Nachazel	Yes
Mr. Pohlgeers	Yes	Dr. Roeding	Yes
Mr. Arlinghaus	Yes		

Ms. Amlung performed the second reading of **Ordinance 2025-08: Amending the Capital Replacement Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026**. Mayor Hehman stated that this is the second reading of this ordinance. There were no questions. Mr. Dietrich made a motion to approve the ordinance, and Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a roll call vote. Mayor Hehman stated that the motion carried.

Ms. Boerger Absent
Mr. Dietrich Yes
Mr. Pohlgeers Yes
Mr. Arlinghaus Yes

Mr. Deatherage Yes
Ms. Nachazel Yes
Dr. Roeding Yes

Ms. Amlung performed the first reading of **Ordinance 2025-09: Adopting the Park Tax Rate for Fiscal Year July 2025-June 2026**. Mayor Hehman stated that the City does not have the authority to change the park tax; thus, it remains the same.

Ms. Amlung performed the first reading of **Ordinance 2025-10: Setting the Waste, Garbage, Trash and Recycling Collection Charge for Fiscal Year July 2025-June 2026**. Mayor Hehman stated that the City took advantage of the option to renew our contract, and Mr. Pohlgeers stated that the City saved money by doing this.

Ms. Amlung performed the first reading of **Ordinance 2025-11: Adopting the Compensating Real Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year July 2025-June 2026**. The rate is .108 per \$100 of assessed property.

Ms. Amlung performed the first reading of **Ordinance 2025-12: Closing and Vacating Part of Royal Drive and Part of Grace Avenue with Signed Consent**. Jim Parsons of Keating, Muething, and Klekamp came to the podium to address this issue. Mr. Parsons stated that he is the City's special counsel on the Fort Mitchell Gateway Project.

- Mayor Hehman previously issued an Executive Order to temporarily close the road. This Ordinance will officially close that section of Royal Drive.
- Once the new construction is finished, there will be a new Royal Drive that will be dedicated to the public and become a city street.
- The only entities involved are the owners, the City of Fort Mitchell and St. Elizabeth Hospital, and the Buttermilk Land Development Company (the long-term tenant). All three entities have signed consents to close these sections of the road.
- Once this ordinance is approved, the ordinance will go to the Kenton County Clerk's office to be recorded and then those sections of the road are automatically closed. The property line will move to the center.
- Mayor Hehman stated that this is the first reading, and Council can vote on this ordinance at the next meeting. Mr. Pohlgeers asked who put together the verbiage regarding the survey. Mr. Parsons stated that attorney, Marty Butler, put the verbiage together.

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions regarding this ordinance. Hearing none, Ms. Amlung moved on to the next item.

Ms. Amlung performed the first reading of **Ordinance 2025-13: Closing and Vacating Part of Royal Drive Without Signed Consent**.

- Mr. Parsons stated that this is the very middle section between those two other segments the City will close on Royal Drive and part of Grace Court. On the north side of the street, the City and Buttermilk Land Development Company are the only parties of interest.
- On the other side of the street, the State Highway Department has a right-of-way interest. The Kentucky Highway Department stated that they do not own the property.
- The City will be filing a friendly lawsuit to clear up the title and the Kentucky State Highway Department will most likely not even file an answer. The court should issue a judgment closing the street.

Ms. Amlung performed the second reading of **Resolution 2025-06: Amending Bond Documents to Add Additional Property to the Project and Taking Other Actions in Furtherance Thereof**.

- Mr. Parsons stated that the City owns some property at the entrance of Royal Drive in between the existing Royal Drive and Buttermilk Pike that was obtained by a deed from the Kentucky State Highway Department years ago. The City intended for that property to be included within the Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) documents and the project description. There was a question about whether the State Highway Department had some interest in that property. It was determined that the Kentucky State Highway Department does not have interest in the property. Once the right of way is closed, any excess right of way will be subject to the IRB lease and subject to payment in lieu of taxes and be part of the project.
- The City is authorizing the amendment to various bond documents including the IRB lease. The deed states that the property must be used for a public purpose. Economic development is the public purpose, so the City has the deed of that property.

Ms. Nachazel made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, called for a voice vote. Mayor Hehman stated that the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT/ CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hehman stated Mr. King is doing his civic duty with the military and will return in a few weeks.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Pohlgeers stated that Sharmili Reddy has resigned as Executive Director of Kenton County Planning and Development Services and is now the City Manager of the City of Covington. Josh Wice will be assuming the duties of Executive Director.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

Public Works Director, Nick Tewes

- 8 speed humps will be added in late fall on Burdsall, Thompson, Pleasant Ridge, and Beechwood.
- Two directional signs for I-75 were added near Beechwood Road and Grandview Drive. A "No Trucks" sign was also added to prevent any semi-trucks from driving on Pleasant Ridge Avenue and Beechwood Drive.
- The Public Works crews have been performing concrete repairs on Harvard Drive.
- The Chelsea Drive reconstruction project was awarded to Eaton Asphalt for \$379,000 which is under budget. The completion date is November 15th.

Programs and Communications Coordinator, Joe Christofield

- Last Tuesday, the Madcap Puppets performance was rained out and was rescheduled for Thursday, August 21, at 6:30 p.m. at General Ormsby Park.

Fire Chief, Dave Slusser

- Mr. Benjamin Garcia passed the National Registry Paramedic Program and is now a Kentucky Certified Paramedic. Mr. Garcia is assigned to Captain Brooks' shift and will spend the next few weeks going through the Field Training Officer program with us. The paramedic program is a year-long course, and he was in the top of his class. Mr. Garcia started as an intern from Beechwood High School, went through the college intern program, and was employed with us part-time then full-time.
- Steven Stasko has been promoted to the position of Lieutenant. That position was vacated when Evan Seeley left last year.
- Eric Ratliff, firefighter/paramedic, has resigned.
- The City is taking applications and interviewing for two firefighter/paramedics.

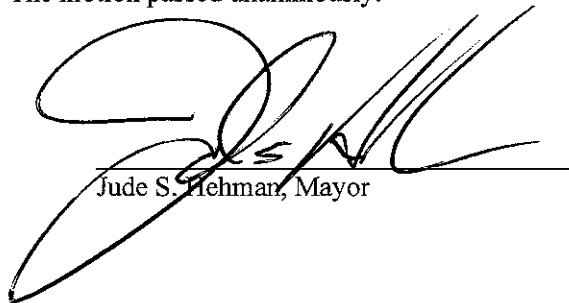
- Tori Neltner, one of our current career development interns, will be attending the Kentucky Fire Academy in Greensville, Kentucky. This 13-week program runs Monday through Friday. Tori is the first person from our department to ever take advantage of this opportunity.
- We have five recruits beginning basic one training tomorrow night through October 25th.
- One current career development program intern, Will Smith, begins EMT class this evening. That class will graduate on December 13th.
- Six new high school interns begin on August 18th. Three are Beechwood students, two are Covington Catholic students, and one is from Ignite Academy.
- The golf outing will be rescheduled next year.

Police Chief, Rob Nader

- Chief Nader reported that Hyundai and Kia cars are still being stolen, so please use a boot to prevent theft.
- Speed humps are proving to be very effective.
- A new hire is in process and will be going through the Academy if he passes all of the tests. The academy has a three-month wait list, then there are three more months of tests, so he may be on the street this time next year. This is a five-year contract.

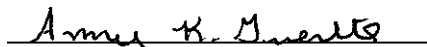
ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Roeding made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Deatherage 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