

CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
March 11, 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 Alyson Roeding. Mr. Mike Stoeckle was 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; and Police Chief, Rob Nader.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

After Mayor Hehman asked for any proposed changes to the agenda and 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 stated that there are two sets of council meeting minutes in the packet. The first set of minutes are for the February 5, 2024, council meeting. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024, council meeting minutes. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hehman asked if there were any changes to the March 4, 2024, planning session minutes. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve the March 4, 2024, minutes. Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions and called for a voice vote. Mr. Pohlgeers abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

No guests requested to speak.

AUDIT REPORT

Stephanie Huhn with Bramel & Ackley CPAs reviewed and presented the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The city received an unmodified opinion. The financial statements are fairly stated, and no deficiencies were found in internal controls.

Mr. Dietrich asked when the city will need to pay the 10-million-dollar retirement liability. Ms. Huhn stated that it will be paid annually over many years.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Amlung read **Municipal Order 2024-01 Appointing Carl Stamm to the Board of Adjustments**. Ms. Mayor Hehman stated that longstanding member, George Deitmaring, needs to be replaced. Boerger made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-01. Mr. Pohlgeers seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung read **Municipal Order 2024-02 Authorizing Execution of Inter-local Housing Choice Voucher Program**. Mr. King stated that the administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program will be moved from the City of Covington to the Housing Authority of Covington. Mr. King explained that Fort Mitchell has had an agreement with the City of Covington since 1983 to administer the voucher program within our city. Mayor Hehman asked if this agreement is to be renewed each year. Mr. King confirmed this agreement will auto renew and we must give a 60-day notice to cancel the agreement. Mr. King stated that he is not aware of any current vouchers in our city, but if there were, we would need someone to administer that for us. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any questions. Ms. Nachazel made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2024-02. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung read **Resolution 2024-02 Adoption of Northern Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Plan**. Mayor Hehman introduced Katie Jo Berkshire Kirkpatrick, District Manager with the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD). Ms. Kirkpatrick explained that NKADD is a regional organization representing Northern Kentucky counties, providing a wide range of services including assisting adults and seniors with aging, disabilities, and workforce development, as well as, providing services to local government including the Hazard Mitigation Plan. That previous Hazard Mitigation plan was adopted in 2017 and is currently out of compliance. Ms. Kirkpatrick explained the plan and the new FEMA policies require all jurisdictions to approve the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. No questions were presented. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02. Mr. Deatherage seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung read **Resolution 2024-03 Authorization to Apply for SAFER Grant**. Fire Chief, Dave Slusser, explained that this grant is to cover the expiring SAFER grant that covers the volunteer recruitment coordinator and the internship program. No additional questions were voiced. Ms. Boerger made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03. Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Amlung read **Resolution 2024-04 Surplus Fire Equipment**. Chief Slusser explained that the equipment is more than 10 years old, no longer up to NFPA code, and will be donated to state fire training programs for practice situations where no one is in danger. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04. Ms. Boerger seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Requested approval from council to spend \$13,000 for a fence from the Park Fund to prevent baseballs from going into the drainage swale for safety. Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to approve the \$13,000 expenditure for a baseball field fence. Dr. Roeding seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. King reported that he had some good meetings last week with the development team on the Drawbridge site regarding bond structure and is hoping to have a final bond authorization to bring to Council in the next month or two.

Mayor Hehman stated that the volunteer and employee appreciation dinner is scheduled for March 23, 2024.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Nachazel mentioned the sign-up deadline of April 19 to participate in the upcoming golf outing to raise funds for DCCH.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

City Clerk/Treasurer, Amy Guenther

No report.

Police Chief, Rob Nader

- Last month, Sargeant Schrand graduated from the Criminal Justice and Executive Development Course.
- The golf outing benefiting DCCH is scheduled for May 3, and there are 13 slots open.

Public Works Director, Nick Tewes

- The public works building construction is moving along well and on target for completion by early May. construction is ongoing.
- The Cherrywood reconstruction bid goes out tomorrow, March 12, and closes March 20.
- Mowing and landscaping bids went out today, March 11, and closes next Monday, March 18. It is a two-year contract with a third optional year renewal. Mayor Hehman described how comprehensive the mowing and landscaping bid package is.
- Mayor Hehman suggested that Council Members view the progress on the Public Works building construction.

Fire Chief, Dave Slusser

- A report was presented detailing mutual aid runs completed made from January 1 through February 29, by city. During this time period, the city completed 32 mutual aid runs to other cities and received 6 mutual aid from other cities. Mr. Pohlgeers wants to make sure that all other cities are pulling their weight.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pohlgeers made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at approximately 7:13 p.m. Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. Mayor Hehman asked if there were any other questions and hearing none, Mayor Hehman called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Jude S. Hehman, Mayor

Prepared By:

Amy Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer