

**CITY OF FORT MITCHELL, KENTUCKY
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER
2355 DIXIE HIGHWAY, FORT MITCHELL, KY 41017
July 13, 2026, 6:30 p.m. ET (5:30 p.m. CT)**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Pohlgeers 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

Ms. Guenther called roll. Council members present: Jared Arlinghaus, Kim Nachazel, Jerry Deatherage, Jeff Dietrich, and Dr. Alyson Roeding. Vicki Boerger and Brad Leeke were absent. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that a quorum of City Council was present.

OTHERS PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pohlgeers asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Deatherage made a motion to approve, and Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. Mayor Pohlgeers asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Roeding made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 22, 2026, meeting, and Mr. Arlinghaus seconded the motion. Mayor Pohlgeers asked whether there were any questions and hearing none, called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

- Ms. Lori Evans stated that she collected 125 signatures of City residents at the parade that read, "Signees of this petition say no to replacing the current five foot sidewalks with eight foot sidewalks in Fort Mitchell." Ms. Evans stated residents did not want any more green space eliminated and suggested that the money be spent on sidewalks where they do not exist. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that the federal grant money can only be used on the Dixie Highway sidewalk and not on other streets. The City's match required is 20% and this project will add more space for pedestrians, scooters and bikes. Ms. Evans asked how the City Council informs the citizens of projects like this. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that the City will start design and engineering first and then will push the plans out on social media and council will seek public input. Mr. Evans agreed with Ms. Evans and said the City can do better.
- A resident from the audience questioned whether this happened a few years ago, and Mayor Pohlgeers stated that eleven years ago there was a completely different project that would widen the sidewalks up to a 12 foot multi-use path.
- One of the residents from the audience asked about motorized vehicles on the sidewalk. Mayor Pohlgeers stated the City is researching what the City can do to improve safety, especially with e-bikes like disallowing the fastest E-bikes (Level 3).
- Ms. Evans stated that she knew of a similar project happening on Cherrywood Drive where 60 residents signed a petition and ended the sidewalks. Ms. Nachazel stated that the project had a lot

of disconnected parts, and it was city funded. Every time the City reconstructs a road, the City looks at adding sidewalks.

- Mayor Pohlgeers thanked the residents for their engagement and conversation. Mayor Pohlgeers has received several communications from people who signed the petition that felt misled because they were told trees would be removed. Without soliciting any input, Mayor Pohlgeers has heard from about 25 individuals who are in support of this Dixie Highway Sidewalk project. The City needs to consider that Dixie Highway is identified as part of the Kenton County Bicycle Plan, which is a multi-use path connecting all Northern Kentucky. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that this sidewalk was constructed in the 1950s. If this project was constructed today, the City would be governed by subdivision standards set by the county which would require this sidewalk to be 12 feet wide, because it is a main arterial road. The Dixie Highway road reconstruction project will start in the next two to three years. The State may intervene and demand a multi-use path. If the City constructs a new sidewalk, that makes a strong case for the state not to widen the sidewalk to 12' feet. The traffic on that sidewalk over the last several years has increased due to the growth of Beechwood School and there is no bus service. Mayor Pohlgeers showed a picture of a gentleman in his motorized wheelchair at the corner of Superior and Dixie Highway on the sidewalk. This gentleman rides on the sidewalk each day, and a pedestrian cannot fit on the sidewalk walking past. Mayor Pohlgeers stated it is the right thing to do for ADA compliance, if nothing else and committed to enhanced landscaping.
- Mr. Kevin Dicke supports the project and stated that this is a great opportunity for the City, the residents, and the future residents who actively use this sidewalk. Mr. Dicke pointed out that an 8 foot wide sidewalk would allow people to cross comfortably without having to step aside onto the lawn to make room for two-way traffic. Widening the sidewalk would allow people to enjoy this green space much more easily. As a landscape architect, Mr. Dicke hears often that people want to live in walkable communities. Typically, ADA compliance requires two wheelchairs to pass side by side. As the sidewalk currently exists, not even one wheelchair can pass through comfortably. Mr. Dicke was a member of the Tree Board for 10-12 years. The Board conducted a tree study with the removal of invasive trees, older trees, and replacement with more native and decorative trees. Those trees were purposefully placed with the potential for widening of the sidewalk so that trees would not need to be removed. There was a comment about the sidewalk on the east side not being used as much. One of the reasons it is not used as much is because it is right against the curb and the right-of-way is not available to widen that area. On the west side, the City has the necessary right-of-way to widen the sidewalk.
- Ms. Erin Proctor, requested the City to continue to widen the sidewalks along Dixie Highway. The widened section between Pleasant Ridge and Burdsall is by far the easiest, the safest, and the most family friendly part of the walk. Wider sidewalks do not just improve accessibility, they make Fort Mitchell more walkable, and they create a more connected environment for all ages.
- Mr. Joe Nader asked whether the widening of sidewalks could be placed on a ballot. Mayor Pohlgeers said that no, it cannot be. Mr. Nader stated that the City's sidewalks are not completely level from Superior to Sunnymede and should be for disabilities. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that the Public Works Department will be doing a sidewalk study this year. Unevenness is one of the main issues being evaluated. Mr. Nader asked whether the telephone and utility poles will interfere. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that some of the poles may need to be moved, and the engineering and design study will determine that.
- Mr. Bob Pille feels that the green space along Dixie Highway is a linear park. Any of the green areas taken away leaves less of a park. Mr. Pille heard that the sidewalk project is anticipated to cost around \$1.2 million. Twenty percent of that is around \$250,000. Mr. Pille stated that

\$250,000 would be better spent on a playground on the property next to the City Building. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that he respects Mr. Pille's point, but the Park Board uses park tax money and would need to make that decision. Mr. Pille asked about the Park Board meetings, and Mr. Christofield stated that the next Park Board meeting is Tuesday, August 4, at 5:30 p.m. at Iris Road Park. Mr. Pille asked whether there are any plans for Beechwood Road. Mayor Pohlgeers stated the City has a grant for Beechwood Road, but that plan is further down the line.

- Mr. Deatherage thanked the residents for participating in the meeting, being engaged and involved in the city.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Amlung performed a second reading of **Ordinance 2026-08: Adopting Payroll Scale for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2027, and June 30, 2028**. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that the pay scale is increased to keep pace with inflation. Mayor Pohlgeers asked for questions or comments, and there were none. Ms. Nachazel made the motion to approve Ordinance 2026-08, and Mr. Arlinghaus seconded the motion. Mayor Pohlgeers asked for a roll-call vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Amlung performed the reading of **Resolution 2026-05: Urging Protection of Municipal Road Aid Funding**. Mayor Pohlgeers stated that the City of Fort Mitchell did not extend the gas credit because that will adversely affect the City's funding from Municipal Road Aid for the City's road projects. This resolution is requesting that the City not be penalized. Dr. Roeding made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-05, and Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion. After asking for questions or comments and hearing none, Mayor Pohlgeers called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Park Road is near to completion (1-2 weeks), and it looks fantastic.
- Royal Drive should be open in 6 weeks.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Deatherage thanked Mr. Christofield, Mr. King, the department heads, and everyone that put on a wonderful 50th Anniversary Independence Day Parade.

Ms. Nachazel asked if the skid marks on the new Dixie Highway sidewalk can be removed.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT

Programs and Communications Coordinator, Joe Christofield

- Fort Mitchell Night at Putt-Putt is Thursday, July 16 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Residents who show their ID get two free games of putt-putt.
- The Drysdale's Concert will be on Friday, July 17 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- Cincinnati Observatory at the Park is Wednesday, July 22 from 9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- Cincinnati Shakespeare Company: Much Ado About Nothing takes place Thursday, July 23 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.

- Honey Hill Farm Petting Zoo will be on Thursday, July 30 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- The Florence Community Band Concert will be on Friday, July 31 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- Madcap Puppets: Monkey See, Monkey Do! Will be on Thursday, August 6 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- The Keen Voice Studio Concert is on Saturday, August 8 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.
- The Derek Alan Band Concert will be on Friday, August 14 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at General Ormsby Mitchel Park.

Public Works Director, Nick Tewes

- Some of the prep work is done on the Sunnymede project, and the storm sewer work is scheduled for the later part of summer and into the fall. The waterline will be relocated this winter. The reconstruction of Cornell and the realignment of Sunnymede will happen in the spring. The mayor added that we are going to push out more information on this type of project via social media in the future. The City has a Road Projects section on the web page, and we will be using this to post design work for any projects that are up and coming.

Police Chief, Rob Nader

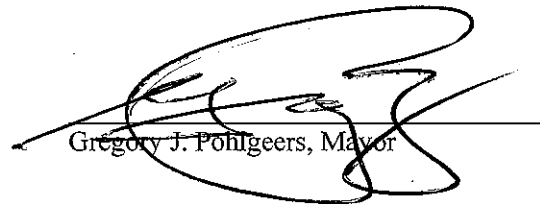
- After 24 years of dedicated service, Captain Bill Zerhusen is retiring at the end of the month.

Fire Chief, Dave Slusser

- Annual hose testing has been completed. Everything passed inspection.
- Hydrant testing is complete with only a couple of minor issues.

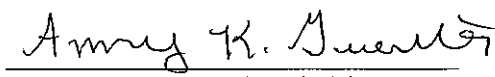
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pohlgeers asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Deatherage made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Arlinghaus seconded the motion. Mayor Pohlgeers called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.



Gregory J. Pohlgeers, Mayor

Prepared By:



Amy K. Guenther, City Clerk/Treasurer