

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS, CAMPBELL  
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON MONDAY,  
JANUARY 3, 2005.

Mayor Mary H. Brown called the initial meeting of the year to order at 8:00 P.M. and noted that Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Pendery was present to conduct the Swearing-in Ceremony for the six newly-elected Councilmembers. He asked each to raise their right hand and repeat the words of the Oath of Office for members of the Board of Council, being: Barbara Runge, James Doepker, Karen Lied, Eric Haas, Roger Peterman and Tom Lampe. Mr. Earlywine congratulated the members and stated that Certification of the Election Results have been received and will be properly filed.

Mayor Brown asked for the Clerk to call the Roll showing all Council members present, then asked for a disposition of the Minutes from the last Regular meeting. It was moved (Lied) and seconded (Doepker) to receive and file the minutes; upon voice vote all voted aye; motion carried.

A letter was read by the Clerk from Mr. Greg Depenbrock, President of Liquor Direct, stating his request for Council to consider permitting Sunday liquor and wine sales, and presenting his reasons. After brief discussion, it was decided that Council did not have sufficient information about what surrounding communities are doing and it was moved (Runge) and seconded (Doepker) to refer this to the Law-Labor-License Committee for their gathering of information and review prior to the next Council meeting. Upon voice vote, all voted Aye; motion carried.

At this time, Mayor Brown called on Jeff Earlywine to introduce visitors in the audience who are attending for the Towne Center Redevelopment Plan. He introduced Hank Pogue, Dave Van Horn, and Jerry Noran and David Noran, of Cardinal Engineering, who have been working with the City on the Plan details over the past few months. He recognized Jay Treft, Assistant to the CAO, also in attendance, who has participated in this work. He also reviewed the history of their process, beginning with the precursor work of the Fort Thomas Forward group in 1997 to 2000. In late 2000, Bank One sold their building to the City who negotiated with Citizens Bank of Campbell County to occupy it. In August, 2001, this area was designated on the City's Master Plan and in November of 2001, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

From that time until the summer of 2004, the parties involved in ownership of these properties have been meeting to share ideas, leading to the present Plan and Pro Forma. Jerry Noran presented copies of the Towne Center design plan to each Councilmember and provided boards for an easel presentation. In the discussion that followed, it was determined that there is not a specific time frame for this project, nor is there likely to be any legal consideration (cross and shared easement) necessary, nor any major adjustment or changes in ownership. Mr. Van Horn said he saw the advantage to Citizens Bank as being "a life style issue loosely tied to development. He said there are currently 14 or 15 employees in the building, as they have moved their accounting and trust departments to the Fort Thomas location.

Dave Noran thanked Council for hiring Cardinal Engineering to complete this project and said he has been pleased with the willingness of the participants to come to consensus about the directions the plans took. Mayor Brown said that Council appreciated the efforts made by Jay Treft and Jeff Earlywine that went into this final presentation. Mr. Earlywine responded that the next steps to be taken are: Council review to offer any flaws, improvements, or other changes. Mr. Haas said that despite this being "a hard, almost impossible task," he liked the concept especially the ability to add a future building to the site. He also liked the openness of the look. Mrs. Lied asked if additional trees could be added; Mr. Noran said yes, this is a "work in progress, yet there is not a lot of space remaining." After some further discussion, it was decided to refer the plan to the Committee of the Whole for their review over the next few weeks prior to any additional Council action being taken.

The Law-Labor-License Committee met just prior to the Council meeting and Mr. Peterman, Chairman, presented their report and recommendations as follows: Regarding a requested street closure of a paper street in the Chesapeake and Kyles Lane area, they recommend allowing this closure to proceed with the stipulation that legal costs be passed along to the property owners making the request. Out of pocket normal costs for this would be in the range of \$300 to \$400, but our costs in this case will be higher since our insurance carrier did not provide coverage for litigation costs regarding this property which have already been incurred. It was moved (Doepker) and seconded (Lied) to accept this recommendation to move forward with the closing process and to advise the plaintiff of this action; upon Roll Call vote, all voted Aye; motion carried.

A second issue, involving the request for permitting liquor sales on Sunday, came with the recommendation that additional information be gathered to determine how other contiguous cities have handled this, hours, fees, etc. in order to be consistent with those cities' actions.

Mr. Earlywine reviewed proposed changes in the Community Center Fee Schedule and recommended that Council approve these small increases. He said that the Community Center is booked at least one year ahead at the current rates, so any increases would not show up until the end of those rentals. He also said the rental hall is in use 51 out of the next 52 Saturdays and Sundays, reflecting the popularity of the facility. A Municipal Order is on tonight's Agenda for Council's approval.

The Finance Committee presented a Report on Vouchers for the period and recommended approval and payment. It was moved (Doepker) and seconded (Lampe) to concur in the recommendation of the Committee; upon Roll Call vote, all voted Aye.

Four Ordinances, O-1, O-2, O-3, O-4, were presented for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and will be laid over for review and any changes until 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at the next Regular Council meeting. These Ordinances are to Set Date and Time for Council's Regular Meetings, Establishing Electric Franchise, Establishing Gas Franchise, and Adopting Flood Insurance Program Regulations. Executive Order EO-1-2005, Appointing Barbara Runge as Mayor Pro Tem for a two-year term was issued by the Mayor with no Council action required.

Municipal Orders were presented in sequence, with Council appointments to Boards or Committees, as follows: Municipal Order MO-1-2005, Jim Doepker to the City's Police and Fire Pension Board; approved upon motion (Peterman), second (Runge) and unanimous Aye voice vote. MO-2-2005, Eric Haas to the Municipal Government League of Northern Kentucky (MGLNK); approved upon motion (Peterman), second (Lampe) and unanimous Aye voice vote. MO-3-2005, Roger Peterman to the Consensus Committee of the Chamber of Commerce; approved upon motion (Runge), second (Lied) and unanimous Aye voice vote.

A Municipal Order, MO-4-2005, Changing the Fee Schedule for Recreation Department Rentals, was presented and approved upon motion (Runge), second (Lied) and unanimous Aye voice vote. Municipal Order MO-5-2005, appointed the Standing Committees of Council for the next two year period and it was approved upon motion (Runge), second (Doepker) and unanimous Aye voice vote.

Mayor Brown presented two Proclamations recognizing the achievement of two sports teams at Highlands High School who were State Champions. The Highlands High School Girls Cross Country Team and the Highlands Varsity Football Team were each given congratulations for their dedicated work and separate weeks were designated in their honor. She said she would like to express appreciation to the Public Works men for the hard work and good job done in clearing the snow and ice under difficult and unusual weather conditions. There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

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Mary H. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dorothy A. Ivie, City Clerk