

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS, CAMPBELL  
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON MONDAY,  
MARCH 1, 2004

Prior to the Regular Meeting, two advertised Public Hearings were conducted by the City's Alcohol Beverage Control Officer, Mrs. Jennifer Machesney. The first was at 7:15 P.M. for Good Stuff Bar & Grill, 915 N. Ft. Thomas Avenue, and the second, at 7:30 P.M., was for Liquor Direct, 90 Alexandria Pike. Mrs. Machesney presented proofs of publication and posting and asked for any written or oral comments, which were recorded in her notes for the hearing. There being no further information to be presented, she declared that the hearings were closed.

Mayor Mary H. Brown then called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. and asked for the City Clerk to call the roll. The following Councilmembers were present: Barbara Runge, Jim Doepker, Karen Lied, Eric Haas, Roger Peterman, and Tom Lampe. Also present were: City Administrative Officer Jeff Earlywine, Clerk Dottie Ivie, City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden, Chief of Police Steve Schmidt, and Fire Chief Dale Edmondson. Mayor Brown led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Minutes of the previous Regular Meeting were presented for Council's review in the packets and were approved upon motion (Runge), second (Peterman), and unanimous Aye voice vote. Mayor Brown asked for any comments from citizens in the audience. Mr. Luke Bezold, 48 Porters Lane, addressed Council regarding his concerns about a contractor currently working on his street. He said that the builder has nearly completed construction of three houses on that street, but is leaving his property without restoration and there is now a 4 foot drop-off that cannot be seeded nor mowed. Mr. Bezold said that he thinks the builder should be held responsible for putting the area back as it was before as much as possible, and he asked for some assistance in getting this accomplished. Mr. Earlywine said he is not familiar with the specific unseeded areas or the drop cut that Mr. Bezold has mentioned, but would be willing to drive down and meet with him, along with staff member Ron Dill, to determine what could be done about this situation. Mr. Bezold left his phone number for a future call from Mr. Earlywine.

Then, Director of General Services Ron Dill presented an Annual Report of his General Services Department, each Councilmember having received a copy in their packet. He reviewed some of the work projects that have been undertaken during the past year, which include the Central Business District Phase I, the annual street resurfacing program, and specific projects on Water Works Road and Burnet Ridge. He said that his department has also completed and implemented a new policies and procedures manual, new employees procedures, fleet management software, and citizen complaint tracking software. He reviewed the upcoming CBD Phase II project, several storm sewer projects, and said that the City has so far used less than half of the salt used on icy streets as compared with last year. Completion of the planned work on the intersection of Highland Avenue and North Ft. Thomas Avenue, which is a two week project, will be begun the week prior to and the week of Spring Break. Mayor Brown thanked Ron for "a beautiful report."

She then asked Chief Edmondson if he might want to comment about the recent change and upgrade in our City-wide insurance rating (ISO) from a 5 to a 3! Chief Edmondson reviewed the multi-year process which this achievement has taken and said he would like to thank the numerous firefighters of the Department who have assisted in preparing and working toward this goal.

He said that decisions made by Council within the last few years were a vital part of obtaining this ranking, especially the hiring of three additional personnel and improvements to fire plugs. He expressed appreciation for Council's progressive actions in this respect and said that this better rating will result in lowered insurance rates for every citizen of Fort Thomas. He said that the announcement of this rating from ISO is the fulfillment of a long-term Fire Department goal.

Mr. Earlywine then reviewed the plan of Campbell County to raise their municipal insurance premium rates to 10% and recommended that Council take action tonight to have the City match the Campbell County rate. He said that other cities within the County have adopted various rates from 5 to 10% and will likely choose to adopt their ordinances individually to accomplish this rate consistently. After some discussion, it was moved (Lampe), seconded (Runge) to authorize this change (from 8% to 10%) and a unanimous aye voice vote was recorded. Mr. Earlywine said that the deadline to file this ordinance in Frankfort is March 23, 2004, so a copy will be forwarded to them prior to this deadline.

Under New Business, Mr. Earlywine recommended approval of an annual contribution of \$2,500 to the Northern Ky. Area Development District, as requested by their recent letter. He said that our City has never responded with a per capita contribution since much of the work provided by NKADD can be and is being done by our own in-house personnel. He said that the amount being recommended for a contribution this year follows our donations in 2002 of \$1,500 and in 2003 of \$2,000. Upon motion (Peterman), and second (Lampe), this was given a unanimous Aye Roll Call vote; motion carried. A check will be prepared and sent to the NKADD.

d by Mr. Richard Bales, a resident who is a professor of law at Chase Law School. Upon discussion, it was suggested that this document, as well as some written and phoned comments from the community, be referred to the staff for their review and recommendation. Mr. Earlywine will respond to Mr. Bales and thank him for his contribution.

Mr. Lampe spoke on behalf of the Fort Thomas Lions Club and said he would like to ask if there were any suggestions as to civic improvement projects that could be undertaken by the group. Mr. Earlywine will take a look at a few items and get back to him. The Report of the Finance Committee was read by the Clerk, recommending that vouchers be paid, and upon motion (Doepker) and second (Lampe), unanimous Ayes were recorded for a Roll Call vote.

Ordinance No. O-3-2004, Establishing Regulations for Newsracks, was presented for a second reading and upon motion (Peterman) and second (Lampe), a unanimous Aye Roll Call vote was recorded; motion carried. Ordinance O-4-2004, Requiring Permits for Street Openings, was also presented for a second reading. It was moved (Doepker) and seconded (Lampe) to adopt and upon Roll Call vote, all voted Aye; motion carried.

Ordinance O-5-2004, Increasing the Municipal Insurance Premium Tax Rate, was then given a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and will be laid over until the next Council meeting for a vote at that time. Mayor Brown announced that the City's Spring Egg Hunt will be conducted on Saturday, April 10, beginning at 12 Noon in Tower Park, for children ages 1 to 8. Mr. Earlywine reported that the auditors have been extremely late in providing their report back to the City this year and with deadlines and requirements set by the Recorder as well as the Department for Local Government, it is urgent to set a meeting of the Finance Committee within the next week or so. After discussion, Finance Committee members agreed to meet with the auditors at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 10, 2004. Since the next council meeting is scheduled during Spring Break, there were inquiries as to Council's availability for that meeting; however four Councilmembers (a quorum) will be present. There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNED:

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Mary H. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dorothy A. Ivie, City Clerk