

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS, CAMPBELL
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON MONDAY,
APRIL 19, 2004.

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mary H. Brown at 8:00 P.M. and after a Roll Call by City Clerk Dottie Ivie, those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Councilmembers were present: Barbara Runge, Jim Doepker, Karen Lied, Roger Peterman, Tom Lampe; Eric Haas was absent due to a death in his family. Also attending were the following staff members: City Administrative Officer Jeff Earlywine, Assistant to the CAO Jay Trefl, City Treasurer Fred Ewald, City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden, Chief of Police Steve Schmidt, and Fire Chief Dale Edmondson.

Minutes from the previous Regular Meeting were received and filed, upon motion (Runge), second (Lied), and unanimous Aye voice vote.

The Police Department Monthly Report was presented by Chief Steve Schmidt, who reviewed statistics and updated Council on several recent personnel achievements. Lt. Ken Fecher just completed a 5-week Criminal Justice class on Executive Development in Richmond, Kentucky. Lt. A. Wayne Turner is now stationed 1 hour south of Baghdad, in Iraq with his military unit. It was moved (Lampe) and seconded (Peterman) to receive and file his report; upon unanimous voice vote, motion carried.

Chief Dale Edmondson presented the Fire Department Monthly Report and expressed his appreciation to Ron Dill and to Shelby Frazer for the completion of a second exit out of the new Training Room constructed to cut through the Fire Department Basement level. It was moved (Runge) and seconded (Doepker) to receive and file the report; upon unanimous aye voice vote, the motion carried.

The Finance Committee, having met prior to the Council meeting to review and consider prepared spreadsheets and an amending ordinance to the FY Budget, recommended approval and the 1st Reading of an Ordinance this evening. This includes approximately \$140,000 required to complete work around the city, such as repairs to streets, sewers, and so on. Also, installation of mobile data terminals in the cruisers, body armor, payment for a dangerous tree assessment and FEMA requirements, much of these item amounts provided for by grant monies. There is also a request for inclusion of unscheduled overtime within the Fire Department created by two injuries and a third firefighter being off due to maternity leave in the amount of \$24,000. The total amendment would be for \$317,000. It was moved (Lied), seconded (Doepker) to implement these amendments via 1st Reading of the Ordinance. Upon Roll Call vote, there was a unanimous Aye vote recorded; motion carried. Also, the Finance Committee discussed sources of funding for the CBD Phase II Project for approximately \$750,000, and it was moved (Lampe) and seconded (Peterman) to authorize solicitation of proposals by the City staff. Upon voice vote, it was approved unanimously.

Under Old Business, Mr. Earlywine prepared a report on a "Safe Sidewalk Ordinance" submitted in March by a citizen and reviewed by staff members. He reviewed the individual sections of the draft ordinance and stated that "In summary, although the submitted proposal is well intended, the staff is of the opinion that the ordinance, as crafted, contains a number of deficiencies that would impact numerous property owners and create unique enforcement challenges."

He continued that it is the staff's opinion "that any benefits derived from such an ordinance would be offset by various...adverse consequences." And further, it doesn't represent "...good public policy for our city and its citizens." He brought a large city-wide map with all locations marked that are within districts where snow and ice would have to be removed in compliance with this requirement. These regulations would affect 1,100 property owners adjacent to public facilities, i.e. schools, churches, etc., including about 25% of them

who are age 65 or older. It is not an option for the City crews to remove ice and snow from sidewalks, he said, as they must concentrate on the streets.

Mr. Doepker commented that it would “add a burden to the city” that would be difficult to enforce. There was some discussion of better informing all citizens of the necessity to clear away ice and snow from sidewalks, both in the media and in the City’s newsletter next Fall. Mayor Brown thanked Jeff for the several page summary that was prepared to provide the Council with complete information. Mr. Peterman asked how common this type of ordinance is in other communities. Mr. Earlywine said it is not extensive, and generally any that they located had different circumstances within the areas involved. It was moved (Runge), and seconded (Lied) that the legislation not be pursued. Upon voice vote, it was 5-0, unanimous Aye; motion carried.

Mr. Doepker reported on several recent meetings he attended as our representative on the Lunken Airport terminal expansion proposal. At a meeting tomorrow night, they will distribute a 100-page draft document with more complete plans for the terminal and flight path areas. If Council would like for someone to come over and review this in more detail, Ms. Reiko would be glad to attend an upcoming Council meeting, he said. Mr. Earlywine commented that there seems to be a recent effort to compromise which could be politically motivated. He said that a noise monitor will be placed in Fort Thomas by the FAA to provide statistical data on noise decibels. This will be located somewhere between the City Building and Tower Park. Two Public Hearings are coming up in May and June, Mr. Doepker said.

Mayor Brown reminded Council that the 4th of July – Independence Day—Celebration this year will be on Monday, July 5th; and also, due to the efforts of the Fort Thomas Business Association, the time of the parade will change this year from the traditional 11:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M., in an effort to get more people up to Tower Park earlier for the events, food booths, and activities up there. The theme this year is: American Pride. The Committee is currently searching for someone to honor as Grand Marshal of the Parade. If anyone has suggestions, please contact the Campbell County Y.M.C. A.

The Finance Committee presented their Report on Vouchers, recommending that the checks be approved and processed, after review by the members. So moved (Doepker), seconded (Lied), and a Roll Call vote was taken, with unanimous Aye votes; motion carried.

Ordinance O-6-2004, Amending the Traffic Ordinance, Changing CBD Parking Time Limits, was adopted upon motion (Runge), second (Doepker) and unanimous Aye Roll Call vote. Ordinance O-7-2004, the 2004 Street Improvement Program, was adopted upon motion (Peterman), second (Lampe) and unanimous Aye Roll Call vote. Ordinance O-8-2004, the CBD Streetscape Phase II Project, was adopted with a unanimous Aye Roll Call vote, after motion (Peterman) and second (Lampe). A Municipal Order, MO-13-2004, appointed Randall “Rick” Warner to the Renaissance Board and this was approved upon motion (Doepker), second (Peterman) and unanimous Aye voice vote. There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNED:

Mary H. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dorothy A. Ivie, City Clerk