

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT THOMAS, CAMPBELL
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 18, 2004.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Council, City of Fort Thomas, was called to order on Monday, October 18, 2004 by Mayor Mary H. Brown. She asked City Clerk Dottie Ivie to call the roll; the following Councilmembers were present: Barbara Runge, Jim Doepker, Karen Lied, Eric Haas, Roger Peterman, Tom Lampe. Also attending were: City Attorney Jann Seidenfaden, Police Chief Steve Schmidt, Fire Chief Dale Cruze and Assistant to the CAO Jay Treft. He was filling in for Jeff Earlywine, who was out of town, attending the International City Managers Conference.

Mayor Brown led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and then asked for disposition of the Minutes from the last Regular Meeting, which were provided to Councilmembers in their packets. Upon motion (Lied), and second (Doepker), there were unanimous Aye voice votes; motion carried.

Mr. Bruce Rath, 218 N. Ft. Thomas Ave., addressed Council regarding concerns that he and some of his neighbors have regarding the lighting in the Streetscape Phase II area. He said that the lights are too bright and are actually brighter in his residential area than they are in some of the Phase I, or business, area. He said that they are "certainly in excess of what we thought was going to be there." He said that shields were placed on the lighting fixtures facing the homes, but the extreme bright light actually falls in between the bulb and the shield, in effect, providing no dimming. He said it is "so bright in the bedroom, he doesn't have to turn on the room light." Mr. Haas commented that three lights didn't really provide enough light; however, the goal is to get this moderated.

He continued that he had complained to one of the Design employees (actually Kevin Okemi, from Human Nature) about this, but nothing has been done. He said it shines so brightly on the whole front of his house, it lights up the whole area. He also said that prior to the improvements, there were three or four lights in the entire area, and now there are fourteen in the same stretch.

He also complained about the buried electric boxes on the outside of each house, which he said were superfluous and could be a simple LB connector directly into each house. B & J Electric Co. personnel agreed that this made a better appearance into the house; however in all of this process, his house paint was damaged. Also, in his next door neighbor's area, the bricks are not seated properly, using concrete, black top and bricks on top, and this has provided an even more dangerous walking area. After some discussion, Mr. Treft agreed to investigate these situations.

The Fire Department Monthly Report for September was presented by Chief Dale Cruze. He reviewed statistics for the month and described some of the Fire Prevention activities that have occurred in October. Upon motion (Lampe) and second (Peterman), and a unanimous Aye voice vote, it was received and filed. The Police Department Monthly Report for September was presented by Chief Steve Schmidt. He reported that Sgt. Wayne Turner has four months to go in Iraq, and informed Council about the testing currently underway for the creation of Eligibility Lists for both Lieutenant and Sergeant. These will be in effect for the next two-year period. This Report was received and filed, upon a motion (Lampe), second (Peterman) and unanimous Aye voice vote.

Under Old Business, Mr. Treft discussed the Towne Center design, providing drawings of the current three proposals and modifications. Mrs. Lied asked if there were still the same number of curb cuts; he said yes, Citizens Bank wants to retain three drive through lanes, and open up the east side of the building with pavers. In the submitted designs, one of the bank service lanes could be a shared lane for egress. There was

discussion of the plans, including a detached building addition, underground level parking garage, and expanded commercial space.

Also, discussion included a recently-conducted parking survey of the entire Central Business District and the design theme of the Towne Center. The drawings show the reclad buildings in the Tudor style, with gabled roofs, and a clock tower or bell tower in the same area. It is hoped that an outdoor café, old time merchants signs, and landscaping will give the area a symbolic look. Suggestions included sweeping steps or small retail shops in the front area; it was noted that an attractive arbor look was an early proposal and what seems to be lacking are areas for conversation, clarity on the areas where customers can park, flexibility on the location and size of signage, and so on. Mr. Treft said a finalized plan will be brought to Council in approximately 30 to 45 days.

Under New Business, Mr. Treft presented information regarding an application for a Handicapped Parking Permit from Mrs. Toney, 26 Burney Lane. He distributed pictures and there were comments about the grade of the driveway, and no parking areas. The applicant does have off-street parking. Mr. Peterman said given the limited amount of time since the information was received by Council on Friday, he would like to delay this application in order to receive more specifics on the application. So moved (Runge), seconded (Lampe), and upon voice vote, the motion carried.

There was some brief discussion about a proposed Occupational License Fee Collection Ordinance; Mr. Ewald was to discuss this with Council, but was ill and could not attend. Mr. Haas reviewed some of the experiences of the City of Newport with this type of ordinance and said that the deadline needs to be April 30th in order to best make it easier for businesses. A draft Ordinance will be presented at the next Council meeting.

The Finance Committee presented their Report on Vouchers for the period and a motion was heard (Lampe) to concur in a recommendation for approval and payment of the vouchers; seconded (Doepker) and a Roll Call vote was unanimous Aye; motion carried.

Ordinance O-25-2004, Regulating Outdoor Dining Areas, was presented for 2nd Reading and upon motion (Doepker), second (Lampe) and unanimous Aye Roll Call vote; it was adopted. Ordinance O-26-2004, Amending the Waste Fees Ordinance, Amending the amount set for charges, was adopted upon motion (Peterman), second (Lampe), and unanimous Aye Roll Call vote.

Mr. Lampe said that he had attended the recent Merchants & Music event and enjoyed it very much, as did several other Council members and Mayor Brown who had also been there. There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Mary H. Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dorothy A. Ivie, City Clerk