

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY SPECIAL MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018 – 12:30 P.M.

City Administrator Ed Butler opened the meeting at 12:34 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call: Mr. Dave Abeln, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Mike Hoerlein, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Bernie Wessels, and Ms. Margie Witt. Also present for the meeting were City Administrator Ed Butler, City Attorney Todd McMurtry, and City Clerk Susan Ellis.

There were no Citizen Comments.

Mr. McMurtry reminded council that in Mayor Hatter's absence a motion was needed for chair and that whoever would serve as chair was still able to vote.

Motion by Mr. Wessels; second by Mr. Wall for Mr. Feinauer to serve as the meeting chair. Roll call vote taken, Mr. Abeln, Mr. Feinauer, Mr. Hoerlein, Mr. Wall, Mr. Wessels, and Ms. Witt voting in favor; no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. McMurtry reminded council that since this was a special meeting they could only discuss the business on the agenda

First Reading of Ordinance 1-18

An Appropriations Ordinance amending the 2017-2018 budget authorizing the City to undertake political advocacy in opposition to the County Employee Retirement System's recent assessment of cities, including Fort Wright.

Mr. McMurtry read the Ordinance.

With KRS increasing dues, the City of Fort Wright wishes to respond with lobbying and political advocacy. The revised budget showing the Political Advocacy line item increasing the budget by \$19,999 was attached to the ordinance.

Mr. McMurtry commented that since this was not an emergency, a second reading of the ordinance would be necessary.

If used, the funds would be coming out of reserves.

Mr. Wessels referenced a phone conversation from Governor's Office commenting that the word is out there and that they are somewhat supportive. They are also in disagreement our representatives and do not want to do tax increases. Mr. Wessels continued that he was not

wanting to spend money or start blasting in social media. His first reaction was to get the word out through the River City News and Fort Thomas News.

Mr. Wessels continued that there was a general lack of knowledge with what was going on. He commented that Fort Wright does have enough reserves to pay the increase this year, but there was still the possibility of a phase in period but no final information yet. He stated that he thought the numbers were based on wrong projection and that in reality the numbers should have been higher.

Discussion that continued about how the money would be spent and the amount. Mr. Abeln commented that he was comfortable with that number and that the City was not likely to spend anything until it had compelling direction. Mr. Butler reminded council that if the expenditure is more than \$20,000 then it would require a bid process.

Mr. Wessels questioned since it was not an election year, would money spent be better the next year. He commented that Mayor Hatter would not spend money unless necessary. He continued that a higher number might send a better message and questioned whether a larger number should be considered. Mr. Feinauer responded that as a single city, it would not and that the dollar amount didn't matter. Getting other cities on board was what was important. Using \$50,000 as an example, Mr. McMurtry reminded council that any contract more than \$20,000 would need to be bid out. If \$50,000 is allocated and less than \$20,000 was spent, then there would be no need for bidding.

Mr. Butler questioned what was to be accomplished. Does it get the attention of legislators? Other cities? He expressed concern that the higher amount might scare other cities off and that citizens may perceive that the City raised taxes just so it could go lobby. Mr. Wall and Mr. Wessels discussed staying with the lower number to bring other cities in.

Mr. Hoerlein asked if multiple cities contributed smaller amounts for a larger expenditure would it still need to be bid. Mr. McMurtry responded that only if it was \$20,000 or more for one city.

Mr. Wessels asked if it would be necessary for an interlocal agreement. Mr. McMurtry responded that it would not necessary.

Mr. Wall expressed concern about law suits. Mr. McMurtry responded that the risk would be remote but that opinion was not certain. Anyone can sue, but if sued, the City is insured. Most likely nothing would happen.

Ms. Witt questioned if the City was already a member of KLC, was there any reason that this couldn't be done through them. JD Chaney is a paid lobbyist by KLC. Mr. Feinauer commented that KLC is more government related, and that these new efforts would be more toward the public.

Mr. Feinauer reminded the Council that the purpose of the Ordinance was to put money aside for future, not to decide how it is being spent. There was not a need to decide what to do at this time.

Ms. Witt inquired about the use of the word "illegal" in paragraph six. The response was that it was the basis of the City's lawsuit.

Mr. Wessels stated a need to put something out to the press. Mr. Butler responded that something needs to be put together regarding the intention for the use of the funds. Discussion continued with Mr. Wessels finally asking Mr. McMurtry to provide a statement for Mr. Butler to release to the press. Mr. Butler commented that he wanted to make sure what he is saying is in align with Council wishes.

Motion by Mr. Wessels; second by Mr. Abeln to approve the Ordinance as read. Roll call vote taken, Mr. Abeln, Mr. Feinauer, Mr. Hoerlein, Mr. Wall, Mr. Wessels, and Ms. Witt voting in favor; no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Hoerlein; second by Mr. Abeln to adjourn the special meeting. Roll call vote taken, Mr. Abeln, Mr. Feinauer, Mr. Hoerlein, Mr. Wall, Mr. Wessels, and Ms. Witt voting in favor; no one opposed. Motion passed.

The special meeting was adjourned at 1:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Susan Ellis, City Clerk