

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
01/08/03

Mayor Weaver opened the Council Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek, Mr. Jim Robke, Mr. Paul Hiltz and Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr. Also present were City Administrator Larry Klein, City Attorney Pete Summe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods.

Mayor Weaver welcomed Joe Nienaber Jr. as a member of Council and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Citizens Comments

Kathy Romero of 113 Ridgemont Avenue addressed Council and submitted letters of support for the preservation of Battery Hooper on the Storer property on Highland Avenue. She encouraged Council to pass the Resolution on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

The following residents were also in attendance to support this Resolution:

Helen Blumlein	421 General Drive
Ron Einhaus	1253 Parkway
Lisa Lange	109 Ridgemont
Mike Warning	406 Olivia Lane
San Juan Romero	113 Ridgemont Avenue
Bert Wall	12 West Crittenden Avenue

Mayor Weaver advised this property was bequeathed to Northern Kentucky University and they will have the choice as to what to do with this property. The City can only support the preservation of this land and abide by the decisions of NKU Foundation. The only control the City has is the zoning of this property for future development.

Clarence Lassetter of 2003 Pieck Drive addressed Council regarding repaving of Pieck Drive and requested the City to consider moving Pieck Drive to the top of the Street Program list.

Mayor Weaver advised when the next street survey is evaluated, Pieck Drive will be considered like all streets in the City.

Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Feinauer to approve the minutes of the 12/11/02 Council Meeting. Roll call vote taken, Hatter, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, Mr. Nienaber abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Resolution 1-03 Supporting The Preservation Of Battery Hooper
Discussion by Council followed.

Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Hiltz to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Nienaber and Wolnitzek voting in favor, Mr. Robke voting no. Motion passed.

Mayor Weaver advised a copy of the Resolution would be forwarded to NKU with copies of the letters submitted to Council from residents.

Mayor Weaver also advised a Resolution would be prepared for other preservation of Battery's in the area.

Second Reading of Ordinance 1-03 Public Street Lights and Signs

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Hiltz to approve. Roll call vote taken, Hatter, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, Mr. Nienaber abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2-03 Debt Refinancing

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Feinauer to approve. Roll call vote taken, Hatter, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, Mr. Nienaber abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed.

First Reading of Ordinance 3-03 Prohibiting On-Street Parking on Amsterdam Road

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance. Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Hiltz to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Nienaber, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

First Reading of Ordinance 4-03 Zoning Map Amendment

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance. Discussion followed. It was suggested before the second reading we have a preliminary plan for frontage road in this area. Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Robke to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Hatter, Nienaber and Wolnitzek voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Resolution 2-03 Disposition of Surplus Property – Old Street Signs

Mr. Klein advised this surplus property is available since the replacement of the street signs throughout the City this past year. A notice was advertised in the Top Of The Hill News that the signs would be available to anyone who would request in writing their choice of which signs they would like to have. Multiple requests were made for some of the streets in the City and names will be drawn at tonight's meeting for these signs.

Motion by Mr. Robke, second by Mr. Hatter to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Hiltz, Nienaber and Wolnitzek voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mayor Weaver drew names for the multiple requested signs and advised that the winners would be notified by phone on Thursday.

Municipal Order 1-03 Council Committee Appointments

Mr. Summe read this Order. The new committees are Community Affairs and Long-Range Plan. Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Hiltz to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Nienaber, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Administrator Report

Mr. Klein advised on the following:

Signature Wear

Samples are available to look at for sizes and style. Mayor Weaver advised he thinks everyone should have their choice of the item they prefer.

City Brochure

A meeting is scheduled for Thursday to look at a proposal for putting together a brochure.

Locator Computer Award

Mr. Klein and Chief Kreinest advised that the City was awarded a grant through the United States Department of Justice that supplies software equipment to help locate missing children with instant photos and posters for immediate distribution. This equipment is valued at about \$1500.00.

South Hills Civic Club Cost Report

An annual operation cost report included in the packet for tonight's meeting for the South Hills Civic Club. This has been operating at minimal cost and is a very positive addition for the City.

Storm Water Phase II Permit Update

By March 2003 the City is required to file a notice of intent to obtain a Federal EPA permit. These permits are about water quality not quantity. By the next Council meeting we should have a draft copy of the interlocal agreement that has been developed by the Sanitation District in conjunction with the cities. There have been several meetings explaining how this agreement will work. The eventual outcome is for the Sanitation District to assume ownership and maintenance for municipal storm sewer systems.

Kentucky Division of Water NOV Update

Nothing new to report at this time. Mayor Weaver advised he would like to get some input from Council regarding this situation. Mark Brueggemann and John Lyons will attend the next meeting to explain this situation and address questions.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Weaver advised the City would have to come up with a plan to finance this costly project.

Liability Loss Control Survey

A letter in enclosed in tonight's packet from the Kentucky League of Cities survey that was conducted last August regarding the City's exposure to worker's compensation, property and general liability loss claims. This survey gives us recommendations on reducing exposure and liability. There were a number of items recommended, such as snow priority route, sidewalk and roadway inspection plan etc. We do have a plan for street replacement but not for sidewalks. Many sidewalks in the City are dangerous and hazardous. There is an Ordinance that states the property owner is responsible for maintenance of the public sidewalks abutting their property, the question is should we start enforcing this Ordinance with letters to the residents to properly repair these sidewalks.

Mr. Feinauer advised he does not think we should let the Street Program die after we worked so hard on this last year. He would like to try and revamp the information given to the residents and let them know how important this program is to the City for maintenance to the streets and sidewalks. This is still an option with all the information we have on this issue and if it is defeated again we know how the residents feel about this issue. Mayor Weaver agrees and stated we face major street repair problems and until we do something with the storm water we will continue to have problems. As materials and labor cost rise this will continue to drive our cost higher and higher. The development coming into town will not fix the problems that we are facing. Mayor Weaver stated that he thinks one of the things that hurt the program is that we stated there would be a sidewalk on every street. Some of the older neighborhoods where the streets are narrow, the residents did not want a sidewalk that would cut down on their front yard. Mr. Wolnitzek advised we should look at the level of traffic and activity on a street to see if a sidewalk is really needed. Mayor Weaver asked Council if they were in favor of taking a second look at this program? Mr. Feinauer does not want to let this issue die and educate people more. Mr. Nienaber stated he thinks Council should be more available to residents and sell as an infrastructure program. Mr. Hiltz believes this is very important and if it not taken care of now it will just get bigger for the future. Mr. Hatter advised most people focused on the sidewalks and that was the biggest issue for a lot of residents. Mr. Robke agrees that the City is in need of more revenue and stated that the two flaws in the program were the sidewalks and the funding mechanism. He believes if taxes are raised, they should be raised for everyone not just residents. Mayor Weaver stated that the City would suffer for many years because this tax increase was defeated. Mr. Wolnitzek stated that this is an important issue and that we need to get everybody on board and sell it and take this back to the voters.

Discussion followed.

It was decided to look at the Street Program again with re-tooling and decide if we want to take this information to the residents and put this question to the voters in November.

Council Committee Reports

Legal Matters

Mr. Summe advised fresh action is needed on the Ms. Classis Car Wash complaint. He will meet with Mr. Maloney and decide on the next step. Mayor Weaver would like to have something started by January 15, 2003.

Department Reports

City Clerk Joyce Woods reported there are 76 tax bills outstanding after the December 31, 2002 deadline. The first delinquent bills were mailed on Tuesday.

Public Works Director Tim Maloney thanked Nick and Jason for the snow removal on Christmas morning.

Fire/EMS Chief Schewe reported Chris Daniel a 2-year member of the Fire Department had passed away on December 29, prayers and thoughts are with his family.

The hours in the department for paid personnel has been expanded until 7PM Monday thru Friday instead of 6PM.

There are four students in the current EMT class.

Response to the flyer in the Top of the Hill News, recruiting new members was very good with 5 people responding. This will be run again in the next newsletter.

A training report has been distributed.

Chief Kreinest reported the Police Department has had a busy start to the New Year with 3 robberies since mid-December. Arrests have been made in 2 of the robberies.

A stolen car was recovered on Sentinel Drive.

Mr. Feinauer suggested a memento be given to Don Martin Jr. for completing his Dad's term of office.

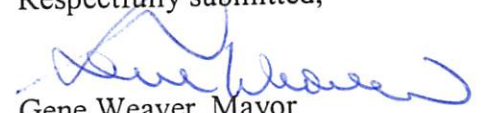
Thanks to the Police Department for their quick response to his residence.

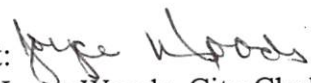
Mayor Weaver approached Council on their thoughts regarding having one regular Council meeting a month instead of the two we now have. If a special meeting is required we could have a second meeting as needed. Mr. Summe advised the Ordinance would have to be changed to do this. We could schedule the regular meeting for the second Wednesday of the month at 6PM. Council is in favor of this change.

First Reading to change the Ordinance to have One Legislative Council Meeting Per Month. Motion by Mr. Robke, second by Mr. Hiltz to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Hatter, Nienaber and Wolnitzek voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Hatter to adjourn. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,


Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest: 
Joyce Woods, City Clerk