



City of Fort Wright
409 Kyles Lane
Fort Wright, KY 41011

City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Here
Councilman Feinauer	Here
Councilman Wall	Here
Councilman Weber	Here
Councilwoman Witt	Here

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Kyle Winslow
Interim Police Chief Jonathan Colwell
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no Citizen Comments.

FF/Paramedic LT Regis Huth

Mayor Hatter invited Regis Huth to introduce himself. Lt. Huth is a resident of the City. He thanked the City for opportunity stating he was happy to serve and will serve the City to the best of his ability.

City Clerk Maura Russell

Mayor Hatter invited Maura Russell to introduce herself. Ms. Russell is from Covington. She stated that she was excited to be here and get to know Council. She expressed her appreciation for the staff support she has been given. Mayor Hatter welcomed her to the team.

FF/Paramedic Brian Brownfield (Part-Time)

Brian Brownfield was unable to attend the meeting but would be introduced at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilman Abeln made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Feinauer	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2019 Special Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Feinauer	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2019 Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Feinauer	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Special Retirement Recognition and Resolution 01-2020 Recognizing Volunteer Doug Lankheit

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Resolution.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilman Wall made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes

Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter expressed his thanks and appreciation for Mr. Lankheit's service to the community and presented him with a plaque. Mr. Lankheit introduced his family. He thanked everyone. Mayor Hatter commented that 40 years was an amazing commitment. Chief Steve Schewe presented Mr. Lankheit with his helmet and a shadow box.

Chief Schewe then introduced the Fire Department members who were in attendance: Mr. Chuck Rice, Mr. Scott Lewis, Mr. Steve Vickers, Mr. Michael Wright, and Lt. Cindy Ford.

Second Reading Ordinance 10-19 Storage Facility Text Amendment.

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Ordinance.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilman Abeln made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Developer John Sweeney of North Point Development thanked the council and expressed his appreciate for the City's willingness to work with them. He stated that he was excited to expand on this side of the river and appreciated the support.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 02-2020 – KYTC Agreement - Amsterdam Road Construction

Ms. Bailey commented that the previous resolutions were for the right of way. This resolution is for the construction phase of the project to move the project along.

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Resolution.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter commented that this was great news. The project will be a huge improvement to modernize the road and add sidewalks. It is funded by OKI grant money and matching funds from the City. There will be some major inconveniences for residents as project is completed but it will lead to a fantastic long-term gain. He stated that the City will do what it can through email and social media to provide information. Councilman Feinauer commented that it is a very aggressive schedule weather permitting. Mr. Bethell commented that the poles have been moved and the water main has been replaced.

Executive Order 01-2020 - PDS Council Appointments

Mayor Hatter reported that the City is required to appoint a member to the PDS Council and that PDS is undergoing substantial changes in structure. Councilman Feinauer has been serving for 8 years but cannot accommodate the new time commitment. Councilman Wessels has agreed to accept appointment and is able to make the time commitment.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the Executive Order appointing Councilman Bernie Wessels to the PDS Council and Councilman Adam Feinauer as alternate. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

CAO REPORT

City Administrative Officer Jill Cain Bailey referred to written report stating that a lot of projects are in progress and then asked for any questions.

Mayor Hatter commented that with Police Chief Schworer retiring the City is in the process of hiring a new chief. He stated that Captain Colwell is serving as Interim Chief and doing good job. 15 applications were received and are being evaluated. The City has reached out to Pat Morgan of the Kenton County Sheriff's Office help with this process. There will be two rounds of interviews with the second round including Captain Colwell and the HR committee. Mayor Hatter is hoping to fast track this process and be ready to make a full presentation to Council in two to three weeks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance - Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis provided an update on property and tangible tax collections. She reported that all delinquent bills and balance owed bills have been sent out. She also reported that with the hiring of Ms. Russell passport services will be resuming and that the City will be able to pursue business licensing and occupational tax collection.

Mayor Hatter commented on the delinquent taxes. He said that he has been asked to waive penalty and interest, however, as the Tax Ordinance was created by Council, in order to waive penalty and interest, the property owner would need to present this to Council.

Ms. Bailey commented that the audit is complete, the documents are ready, and the auditor is creating internal controls and finalizing reports. She stated that she is hoping for the presentation at February 2020 council meeting and is anticipating a good report.

Fire/EMS Department - Fire Chief Steve Schewe reported that tomorrow is the Hoxworth blood drive. No appointments are required. Anyone who donates will receive a Starbucks gift card. Chief Schewe also reported that he and Mr. Bethell will be picking up the fire truck in Columbus on Friday. Then they will start to load up, complete training, and get ready to put it into service. The ambulance chassis has been built and has been shipped to LiquidSprings to install the suspension. Following that it will be sent Horton.

Legal Counsel - City Attorney Kyle Winslow said that he would provide his report in Executive Session.

Police Department – Interim Police Chief Jonathan Colwell reported that December was a busy month. Officers Getz and Bellau participated in the Cops & Kids shopping and that is was a great turnout. Walmart donated 6000 rounds of ammunition to the City which will supply the Police Department for the year. Officer Arnsperger and his family obtained donations from local businesses for gifts to be purchased for kids. They wrapped and hand delivered the presents along with Kroger gift cards. The sergeant promotion process has been started with three officers participating. The written test has been scheduled for mid-February. Officers Arnsperger and Wiesner had participated in a career development program and had earned certificates for Intermediate Officer and are continuing to advance. Officer Arnsperger was awarded the Highway All Star Safety Award which focuses on DUIs and impaired driving. He was ranked at #2. Mayor Hatter expressed his congratulations commenting on how Fort Wright is the third or fourth busiest police department in area.

Councilman Feinauer commented on the rash of car break ins and reminded residents to lock their vehicles and not to leave valuables in sight. Captain Colwell agreed and reminded residents to call in. Mayor Hatter promoted the Police Department Facebook page for updates and to communicate directly with the Police Department. Both Mayor Hatter and Ms. Ellis promoted calling 911 or Kenton County Dispatch rather than calling the City Building. Councilwoman Witt recommended turning on lights.

Public Works - Public Works Director Jeff Bethell reported that there had been a little bit of snow which provided a good training opportunity for plowing. Public works had been mulching leaves. Training at the Wilder City Building had been completed so that the department could continue to utilize the Campbell County Jail workers. A recent trash pickup resulted in 45 bags of trash. Mr. Bethell thanked the Garden Club for the donation of two trees which were planted on the hill by the fountain. Mr. Bethell would be meeting with Ms. Bailey and Mr. Marty Hellmann to go over the 2020 Street Program. Work on pier wall over by General Drive will be scheduled. Mayor Hatter recommended for residents impacted by the Street Program to watch for emails and posts on social media. Councilman Feinauer asked about the Dixie/Kyles realignment. Mr. Bethell responded that nothing had changed. Work will begin in May 2020 after school is out.

Mayor Hatter reminded everyone that the Kenton County PVA will be reassessing property values and that there is an appeal process with the PVA if a resident is not in agreement. He said he would send information out. Ms. Bailey provided the timeline: Assessments will be completed by the end of March, notices will be sent out in mid-April, and residents would have 15 days to appeal.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Weber commented on the tree that was removed behind the new dental office saying that it looks fantastic.

Mayor Hatter thanked Councilwoman Witt and the Garden Club for everything they had done during holidays.

Councilwoman Witt reported that the Garden Club had a plan for selecting trees to create an arboretum on the City grounds. Currently the plans include adding a tulip poplar and a blue spruce for Christmas lighting.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank Yous

Mayor Hatter asked for residents who have good experiences with City personnel to send emails and feedback about their interactions.

Officer Arnsperger received a commendation from Harmons Barbecue regarding a suspicious person, possibly homeless lying outside by their heater. He had no coat or shoes. Officer Asperger took him to Walmart to buy a coat with his own money. Councilman Weber asked if the City could provide reimbursement. Mayor Hatter referenced a policy with limits so that it would not be abused. Ms. Bailey responded that there is a statute prohibiting the donation of funds. Mr. Winslow will research this.

Councilwoman Witt sent an email regarding her father-in-law's interaction with Sergeant Kreutzjans after an automobile accident. Sergeant Kreutzjans spent quite a bit of time with him and made him feel comfortable. She stated that the City has such a wonderful group of police and fire personnel.

Mayor Hatter had an additional commendation for Sergeant Kreutzjans. His son had been pulled over by Sergeant Kreutzjans for speeding. His son had commented on how nice he was.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hatter commented that an Executive Session was needed to discuss the lawsuit with the retirement system related to the separation of CERS and KRS. Things had been going favorably, but the recent ruling that was not favorable. The intent is to keep fighting.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn the Special Council Meeting to Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810 Paragraph (c), discussion of proposed or pending litigation. Councilman Weber made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Special Council Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:05 PM.

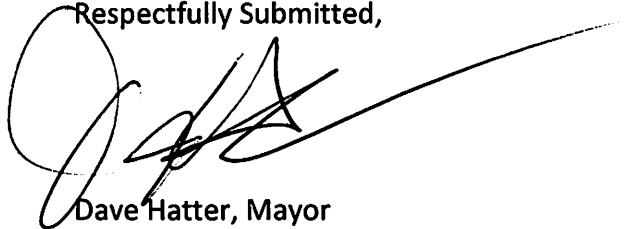
The meeting was re-opened to the public at approximately 7:21 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Weber made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Abeln made a second. All voting in favor.

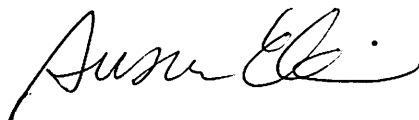
The Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Hatter', written over a horizontal line.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Ellis', written in a cursive style.

Susan Ellis, CMC, KCMC
Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk