



**City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hatter opened the caucus meeting at 6:11 PM following the conclusion of the Special Meeting.

The following council members were in attendance:

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Todd McMurtry
Police Chief Marc Schworer
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Susan Ellis.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Battery Hooper Park/Ramage Museum

Mayor Hatters has received several emails regarding the closing of the park since the ice storm in November. There are limbs hanging possibly creating a dangerous situation. The Public Works department is understrength and does not currently have the resources. At this time of year, the weather and the roads are a higher priority.

Options discussed included:

- Leasing the park to the Museum to shift the liability on the Museum so they could do their own cleanup.
- Allowing volunteers to do the cleanup which would require liability insurance.
- Using Museum budget to hire temporary help and renting equipment to address the cleanup. Mr. Bethell provided general cost guidelines:
 - Rental of lift \$260 per day
 - Rental of chipper \$320 per day
 - Tree removal service \$800-\$1,200 per half day
 - Maximum total cost \$3,000

Mayor Hatter and the Council were in favor of encouraging volunteerism with the following parameters/conditions:

- Selection of a specific clean-up day
- Additional liability insurance be obtained for that event
- The City would not be providing equipment
- A City employee would supervise
- If expenditures are substantial, it would be necessary to review the plan

The concern for the clean-up resulted from the Kentucky Heritage Council's Annual Archaeology Conference which will be held in Northern Kentucky, March 1-3, 2019. A tour of the Museum and Battery Hooper has already been scheduled. This led to discussion of the lack of communication between the Museum Board and the City. The Museum has been doing projects that are not necessarily approved. Ms. Bailey plans to attend board meetings. It was determined that the Museum should be submitting a list of projects with budgetary concerns well in advance of scheduling, not only for approval, but for advertising and other City support.

Another issue identified in the emails was the need of a gutter repair. Mr. Bethell will inspect and if it is an easy fix, will do the repair. Otherwise, he will obtain an estimate for the repair.

Nature Center

Ms. Bailey reviewed an issue with the Nature Center access and parking. There has been a driveway agreement with property owner Mr. Roger Schroder that the City would pay the County property taxes for use of this property. Originally this was a 5-year contract. Mr. Schroder's recollection was that it would renew unless changed, however the contract does not read that way. Ms. Bailey stated that if the City is going to continue to pay the taxes, a contract is needed.

Discussion continued regarding the history of the Nature Center Access and its closing. The parking lot is not open because of a slide so currently the City is paying for something that is not in use. A map of the area was reviewed. There is a lake, a substantial dam, and utilities, so the access needs to be maintained. Originally the Nature Center had trails and other facilities. Following sanitation department work in 2007-2008 a slide occurred. The Nature Center was closed and has not been in use since. No further substantial slippage has occurred. Although it is still Mr. Schroder's property, there is a need to maintain access for the City and other utilities.

There was further discussion about the removing parking lot. The area was reviewed by Mr. Bethell and engineer Mr. Marty Hellman. A plan to remove the parking lot and put in a sidewalk was estimated to be \$95,000..

The following recommendations were made:

- Structures, signage, and other items damaged by the slide should be removed.
- Discovery is needed to determine who owns and/or is responsible of maintaining the road.
- Discovery is needed to determine who owns and/or is responsible for maintaining the lake.
- Remove portions of the parking lot but leave a sidewalk intact from the parking lot.
- Remove the Nature Center page from the website.
- Cease payment of any taxes for Mr. Schroder until this issue is worked out.

Property Donation – Wessels Company

Councilman Wessels provided background that some time ago the Wessels Company had approached the City about donating a piece of land, but this was never completed. The City of Covington has approached them about giving the land to them. The property is in Fort Wright and the Wessels Company would prefer to give it to Fort Wright. The property would be intended for green space and would require a development restriction. There is a street stub for the future possibility of connecting to Devou Park. This donation might also present an opportunity to work out an agreement with Covington.

It was agreed to proceed with having Mr. McMurtry work with the Wessels Company to accept this gift.

Ongoing 'Project & Issues' List Review

Ms. Bailey reviewed the list that Mayor Hatter sent her and provided updates on closed items.

Councilman Wessels asked if the townhouse project on the Berling property was still an option or if another developer was looking into sale units or townhouses. More research was needed on this item.

Councilman Feinauer asked if O Reilly's and the new Car Wash items were on the report.

Mayor Hatter reported that the Finance Committee met with auditor prior to the Special Meeting. The auditor needed one more piece of information to finalize his report. The City is financially sound. Liability items are the pension and unused vacation time. Their findings were similar to those of Von Lehman, mainly lack of controls. Mayor Hatter and Ms. Bailey have prepared a response and laid out plans for implementing a cash register and increased use of the lockbox to address these concerns. Once Mr. McMurtry and Ms. Bailey provide him with the final information, copies of the audit will be sent out. And presented at the next council meeting. The City will need to spend money to implement the changes that are needed.

Mayor Hatter reported that he has put together and prioritized a list to guide Ms. Bailey. Once this is completed, it will be shared with council for discussion and feedback.

Mayor Hatter provided an update on the snow removal. Mr. Bethell commented that everything went well. He had good relief drivers and plenty of salt. He had a couple equipment issues with the old truck that the mechanic is working on. He expects the upcoming weekend with lower temperatures to present more of a challenge. Mayor Hatter commented that his Facebook post has received positive comments. He thanked Mr. Bethell for everything Public Works does and how it creates incredible public relations for the city. He encouraged everyone to share his Facebook posts.

Councilman Feinauer expressed the need to determine if the City is in parks business or not saying that this affects the impression of the City. Discussion followed regarding the Parks Board. Ms. Bailey provided background of how parks and recreation events were handled at Taylor Mill. Mayor Hatter recognized the need for new activities and events and asked the Community Improvement Committee to review and make recommendations for the future.

Mayor Hatter commented on the Infinity Dealership's car tower saying he felt it was a positive addition to the City. He stated that he had not received any complaints about the lighting. No one else has received any complaints either.

Councilman Wessels reported that he talked to Rudy Kreutzjans and that the closing is going through with the new church.

ADJOURNMENT OF CAUCUS MEETING

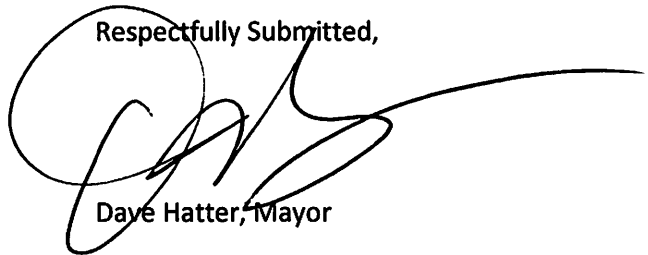
Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Hoerlein made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

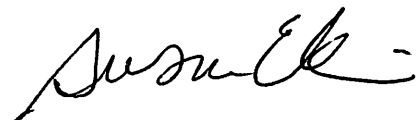
The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dave Hatter, Mayor.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Susan Ellis, City Clerk.

Susan Ellis, City Clerk