



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwright.com | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Dave Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Present
Councilman Collins	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Absent
Councilman Wessels	Present
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Bailey
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Captain Jonathan Colwell
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Attorney Tim Theissen
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Bill & Sue Osterhage – 45 Rivard (Delinquent Taxes) – Bill and Sue Osterhage addressed Council regarding a delinquent tax bill they received with penalty and interest added. They requested Council remove the fee and interest, saying they have never paid late and never received a bill from the City. Mayor Hatter advised the taxes and late paying rates are set by Ordinance by Council and to waive anything they would have to change the Ordinance.

Mr. Theissen added that cities are not allowed to waive penalties once they have established a tax rate and sent a bill, as it could lead to favoritism.

Ms. Bailey recommended they mark on their calendar the tax due date, which is always the last business day of the year, and bills are always mailed in early November. She also encouraged them to sign up for e-newsletters and to follow the City on social media.

Ryan Townsend – 1825 Mt. Vernon Drive (Traffic Concerns) – Mr. Townsend addressed Council regarding concerns about speeding through his neighborhood, which he says he also addressed previously with Chief Butler. He said he would like to have the speed limit lowered to 15 miles per hour and he would like speed humps installed. Mr. Townsend also requested sidewalks be widened and moved off the curb, and he asked for curbs to be fully changed to square-edge versus rounded.

Ms. Bailey and Marty Hellmann, CT Consultants, addressed the sidewalk and street/curb depth matters by saying that the sidewalks are currently about three and a half feet wide and when Mt. Vernon Drive is reconstructed in about two to three years, they will narrow the road by one foot for sidewalks to be widened on each side. Ms. Bailey added that Mt. Vernon Drive's reconstruction will be a \$3 million endeavor, the largest ever taken on by the City. She also said extending sidewalks even more moves into matters of right-of-way acquisition from abutting property owners, which increases the costs of projects.

There was discussion about the speed limit, with Chief Butler saying the speed radar results from two different locations on Mt. Vernon Drive indicated 25mph is acceptable and there have been no accidents or incidents involving speed-related crashes in at least four years. Consensus determined speed humps will probably not be installed as they would need to be placed every two to three hundred feet to be effective.

There were discussions about targeted messaging for residents in specific neighborhoods where speeding and running stop signs are reported more often, along with increased patrolling by Police.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion about Door Store ads and the George Huser sidewalk project. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Wessels	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Enda Drive Storm Sewer Project by SD1 (Marty Hellmann) – Mr. Hellmann said this project came to his attention late last year and residents in the impacted area have already been notified by SD1. He said he met with SD1 and was presented with the options for flood remediation, saying they are choosing an option to alleviate flooding that will widen the storm pipe on West Henry Clay Avenue and Edna Lane. Mr. Hellmann acknowledged that the City just finished a resurfacing project on Edna Lane in 2019 and prior to that work the City asked SD1 if they needed to do any upgrades in the area, and they declined.

Ms. Bailey advised Council that this project will move forward, as if the City says SD1 cannot complete the project the liability for damages falls to the City. She said anything torn up during the project will be replaced to the City's standards. Ms. Bailey said the project is still in the design phase, but they anticipate it starting in about a year. Mayor Hatter asked that a letter be sent to all impacted residents to let them know what is happening and the steps that brought the project to this point.

George Huser Sidewalk Project – Mr. Hellmann said there is an update to the concrete channel that needs to happen on this project that will cause a curb height of approximately 12 inches. He asked Council if they would like to add a fencing component at \$40,000 total. Council determined the rail could be added later if necessary.

Performance Lexus Signage Application/Permit Approval – Ms. Bailey said the approval of the Performance Lexus sign package falls to Council because of its location, and it has already been approved by PDS. She said the

concern is with the main sign, which is planned to be 50 feet high and nine feet wide. She said this is a large sign that will set a precedent for the other developments in this area. Ms. Bailey confirmed this height is on par with the existing Infiniti dealership sign. Council allowed Ms. Bailey to move forward with the sign permit.

City Board Appointed Representatives (TBNK and BOA) – Mayor Hatter said Tom Litzler has agreed to serve one more term on the TBNK Board of Directors. He thanked Mr. Litzler for agreeing to do that, saying he adds a lot of value and an amazing amount of institutional knowledge to that board.

Mayor Hatter said he has spoken with a person interested in serving on the Board of Adjustment.

Ms. Bailey said both appointments will be on the next Council Meeting agenda.

Children at Play Sign Requests (East Henry Clay Avenue) – Ms. Bailey said this request came from the grandmother of a resident, though she has not responded to messages left by her or Mr. Bethell.

Ms. Bailey said she generally sees people asking for signage but then saying they do not want the sign in front of their home. She recommended not moving forward unless they hear back from the woman.

Traffic Concerns on Highland/Kyles Lane – There was discussion about the length of time it can take to get through the intersection at Kyles Lane and Highland Pike during peak commuting times, along with the legalities of vehicles using the right lane to move northbound until they approach the intersection. Suggestions were given to correct matters, including working with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to re-stripe the roadway to create a center double-turn lane, instead of having two northbound lanes.

The discussion on this intersection led to discussion on Police Department staffing and the suggestion that the department be allowed to hire a full-time officer dedicated to traffic or a full-time detective who would also assist with traffic.

Ms. Bailey suggested having CT Consultants draw up suggested ideas for improvements to the roadway and intersection then scheduling a meeting with KYTC District Six to request they review and implement changes. Mayor Hatter added that increasing the capabilities of the existing camera system can assist in reviewing roadway and intersection issues, as well as adding signage along the road.

Kentucky Consumer Data Protection Act – SB15 – Mayor Hatter said he is a big proponent of this bill and will be asking Council to approve a Resolution to give to senators to encourage this bill to pass. He said 16 states have passed some kind of consumer privacy laws and this could help Kentucky levy significant penalties and incentives to protect consumer data.

Roger Schroder, a city business owner, said this bill has a lot of pieces that are terrible for businesses that collect personal data but do not sell it.

No Parking Request (Don Martin Drive) – Mr. Bethell was approached by a resident on Don Martin Drive requesting No Parking signage because of a neighbor's recreational vehicle that blocks him in his driveway. Mr.

Bethell and Chief Butler agreed there should at least be Fire Lane signs because of the location of a fire hydrant. Mr. Theissen agreed to review the Ordinances to ensure appropriate signage is placed.

Battery Hooper Park – Mayor Hatter reminded Council that there are essentially three options with Battery Hooper Park: maintain it as a passive park; build it out with additional recreational opportunities; or sell the park to try to recoup some of the costs associated with purchasing it. A review of six months of camera footage was done, and it was determined that less than three residents per hour were using the park.

Door Store Advertisements – Councilwoman Witt provided background on this issue, saying the work to eliminate these advertisements from City streets has been going on for two years, including updates to City Ordinances. After discussion, it was determined that Mr. Theissen would send a letter with a summary of the issues that still exist, including that the advertisements are still in the streets and gutters, and asking what the company intends to do to remediate the matter. Mr. Theissen advised if the company does not respond there is no recourse for the City. He also reminded Council that the City, as a public agency, cannot interfere with their right to exercise the First Amendment, but the City can educate residents on their options to stop delivery.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Wessels made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session under KRS 61.810(1)(c), discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 9:18 PM.

The Caucus Meeting was reopened to the public at 9:35 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

Councilman Wessels made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. All voting in favor.

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell, City Clerk