

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY CAUCUS/PUBLIC MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2011 – 6:00PM

Mayor Nienaber opened the public meeting at 6:10PM. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Bernie Wessels and Mr. Scott Wall. Also in attendance were City Administrator Gary Huff, City Attorney Pete Summe, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods. Mr. Joe Averdick and Mr. Todd McMurtry were unavailable for this meeting.

Mayor Nienaber advised the purpose of the public meeting was to have a second reading of Ordinance 01-11 which is a Stage I Development Plan for Jefferson Air Inc., Roger Schroder.

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Hatter to approve. Roll call vote taken, Wessels and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Wessels, second by Mr. Hatter to close the public meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Caucus Meeting

Mayor Nienaber opened the caucus meeting, the same members in attendance.

Funding for Street Repairs

Mr. Huff stated that since we are starting to talk about the upcoming budget, we need to make some decision on exactly what will happen with the street program. Department Heads are putting together numbers for their individual departments. Essential items in the budget will have budget numbers but non-essential items will start at a zero balance. Since our budget is pretty lean as is, items for discussion will be brought before the Finance Committee and discussed in that committee before it is brought before Council. We will have to decide how to go forward

and put together a comprehensive plan and what direction to go with it. One suggestion that we had from a resident was to bring back city stickers through the vehicle renewal at Kenton County. This would give us a fund that could be used for the street repairs and replacements.

Mayor Nienaber advised that there was discussion at the Mayor's Group meeting previously regarding HB137, which is dealing with allowing more than the 4% increase in the compensation rate for tax increases.

Judge Executive Steve Arlinghaus brought up preliminary discussion regarding a regional dispatch center. This was also at the Mayor's Group meeting.

ALS

Mayor Nienaber advised Council that there were some conservative and very preliminary numbers in the packet for review and discussion to have ALS available on our ambulances. There are eight cities under contract with Rural Metro at this time and we have no intention of breaking our agreement with them, until the contract has ended.

Chief Schewe reported that under our future plan there would be a paramedic on every call and they would be an employee of Fort Wright. We know that costs will be raised through Rural Metro when our contract is up, and we think we could have our own paramedics in place when this happens. We will be having talks with neighboring cities on this program, to see if there is other interest from them in implementing the same program. This would be a significant increase in the level of service for our residents. This was presented to the Finance Committee and they thought it would make sense with the numbers presented. Further discussion will take place on this plan.

Placement of Snow or Ice on Streets and Sidewalks

Fort Thomas has an Ordinance restricting the placement of snow and ice on streets or sidewalks. Since we have a problem with this in our City, Mr. Maloney wanted to bring it to the attention of Council to see if we might want to consider an Ordinance in the future on this issue. It was decided that we would look at the Ordinance for next year and bring it to the Community Preservation Committee.

Banklick Creek Project

In the packet is a Conservation Easement and map regarding a project of approximately 6.9 acre property located on Madison Pike. This easement is intended to preserve a Conservation Area located on the property from development, to promote, restore and protect the environmental and ecological quality of the Conservation Area including the restoration and protection of its associated soils, streams, wetlands meadows, woods and wildlife; and to provide a place for public enjoyment of nature.

Discussion followed and it was suggested that the City might want to consider turning the land over to the group, instead of the easement. There would probably be less liability with that transaction than with just the easement. If anything would be found or would go wrong on the property, it would not be an issue for the City. Mr. Summe advised we could add conditions to the transfer such as it could only be used for conservation purposes.

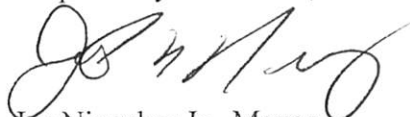
Mr. Wessels suggested turning it over to St. Agnes for sport fields for their use. Mr. Huff stated that it is only a very small portion.

Mayor Nienaber reported that Mr. Sparrow from Rankin and Rankin will be at the next Council meeting to present the 2009-2010 Audit and answer any questions that Council might have.

At a previous meeting Mr. Wessels was named as our City representative to NKAP Council, with Mr. Hatter being the alternative. Mr. Wessels has accepted the position of representative from Kenton County to the Council. We will rescind Executive Order 1-11, that was approved at the last council meeting and appoint Mayor Joe Nienaber as the City representative and Mr. Hatter as the alternate.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

Attest:



Joyce Woods, City Clerk