



# City of Fort Wright

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## City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting Wednesday, January 19, 2022 – 6:00 PM

### CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 6:02 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 Feinauer	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Absent
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey  
City Attorney Tim Theissen  
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe  
Police Chief Ed Butler  
City Clerk Maura Russell

Mayor Hatter requested an amendment to the agenda to include a discussion and vote on Municipal Order 01-2022, regarding items from the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. Councilman Abeln made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Jason Worms – 433 Pickett Drive – Mr. Worms addressed Council asking for an update on the recent incident at InterPlastic Corporation at 3535 Latonia Avenue on Monday, January 10, 2022. Chief Schewe advised that there was product in the silo being warmed and something caused it to overheat, which lead to a pressure build-up that caused the lid of the silo to blow off. He said a small fire occurred after the lid hit a light fixture, but it was easily put out by the Fort Wright Fire Department. Chief Schewe said Fort Wright Fire Department was on site until around 4:30 AM to ensure everything was safe.

Chief Schewe said there was no danger to any staff, and nothing was outside of the on-site containment area. He also said the last time there was an incident that required this kind of response was about 20 to 25 years ago.

Chief Schewe said the report from InterPlastic should come out in the next week and will be available to the public.

Mr. Theissen added that the City of Fort Wright does not have any environmental enforcement or regulation capabilities, as that is handled by federal and state agencies. He said the company is up to date on inspections and there is nothing involving the City that would be an issue. Chief Schewe said emergency management teams were brought in right away and the EPA [US Environmental Protection Agency] had a representative on-site that evening to monitor.

**FW Police Specialist Danny Hampton (Retiring)** – Mayor Hatter advised this presentation would take place during New Business.

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

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

Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called 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 Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 01-2022 Disposition of a Firearm** – Mayor Hatter said it is a tradition to surplus a retiring Police Officer's service weapon to give them as a token of appreciation. He said this was being done to honor Police Specialist Danny Hampton for his retirement from the Fort Wright Police Department.

Mr. Theissen read Resolution 01-2022, a Resolution of the City of Fort Wright, Kenton County, Kentucky, authorizing the disposition of a firearm, a Glock Model 26 9mm firearm with serial number ADMB341, to a retiring employee under KRS §65.041.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve Resolution 01-2022. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**Resolution 02-2022 Honoring retiring Specialist Daniel Hampton** – Mr. Theissen read Resolution 02-2022 recognizing and honor Specialist Daniel Hampton as he retired from his position with the Fort Wright Police Department effective December 31, 2021.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve Resolution 02-2022. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter said that he was a great asset to the City and thanked Specialist Hampton for his work on behalf of himself, Council, and the residents. Councilman Feinauer said it was an honor having Specialist Hampton on the team and his smile and professionalism will be missed. Mayor Hatter presented Specialist Hampton with the firearm and Resolution.

Specialist Hampton addressed Council, saying it was an honor to work for the City and he will miss everyone.

**FY 2020-2021 Audit Presentation (Chamberlin Owen CPAs)** – John Chamberlin presented the financial statements for the fiscal year-ended June 30, 2021. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Bailey, City Accountant Ben Harrison, and Ms. Russell for their assistance leading up to and during the firm's visit. Mr. Chamberlin added that part of this audit required additional review because the City has expended more than \$750,000 in federal funding, stemming almost fully from the Amsterdam Road project.

Mr. Chamberlin presented the following:

- Presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) and auditing standards generally accepted in the United States (GAAS)
- Issued an unmodified opinion, meaning no modifications were required to the opinion and they are stated fairly; highest opinion they can give
- There are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control
- There are no instances of non-compliance with laws or grant, debt, or bond arrangements; specifically, the City is fully compliant with KRS [Kentucky Retirement Systems] and CERS [County Employee Retirement System]
- There was one management comment regarding budget line items

Mr. Chamberlin closed by saying the City is in great financial position, with approximately 13 months cash on hand.

Mayor Hatter thanked Mr. Chamberlin and his team for their work on the City's audit. He also thanked Council and staff for taking the City's finances seriously and putting in time to ensure the overall picture is holistically good, and for protecting the resident's and businesses tax dollars. Mayor Hatter said the audit will be published to the website and he recommended every resident review it to see how their money is being spent. He added that the City also has the OpenGov portal available, which allows for financial transparency including seeing every check the City writes.

**Resolution 03-2022 Concerning Dudley/Sperti Drive Realignment** – Ms. Bailey said this Resolution references the planned realignment on KY-17/Madison Pike at the Dudley Road and Sperti Drive intersection. She said there are concerns about traffic flow and impacts to the Gateway Community & Technical College campus, businesses along that corridor, and Interstate 275. Ms. Bailey said this Resolution is opposing the proposed changes per Council's direction. Mayor Hatter added that the City of Edgewood has also passed a Resolution against this project.

Mr. Theissen read Resolution 03-2022, which calls for assistance and action from the Commonwealth of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to collaboratively identify and address many areas of concern regarding the proposed Alternate 3 realignment of KY-17/Madison Pike and the Dudley Road/Sperti Drive Project. There was discussion on the reason for this Resolution and Mayor Hatter said having Council come together unified in their decision and requesting alternatives holds more weight than just he or Ms. Bailey approaching the state directly.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve Resolution 03-2022. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 01-2022 Amending Various Sections of the Traffic Code** – Ms. Bailey said this project has been in the works for a long time and thanked each department head for their review of the City's Traffic Code. She said several changes were made, including identifying speed limits, no parking zones, one-way streets, and the

location of each stop sign in the City. Ms. Bailey added that the stop signs must be listed within the Ordinance to be enforceable by the Police Department, and that is a key element of this Ordinance.

Mr. Theissen added that there has been a lot of time spent on this Ordinance to clean it up and make it right. He said one item removed was the City's parking stickers, which have not been used in many years. He also said there is now a template in place to address future changes for new streets or no parking areas to be implemented. Mr. Theissen said there is also a provision to allow for the Police Chief to designate emergency or temporary no parking areas for special events or other causes.

Mayor Hatter commented that seeing the sheer volume of stop signs listed is amazing and thanked staff for their work. He reminded residents that the Police Department does not look to give out speeding or parking tickets, but when they need to those items need to be documented to be enforceable.

Mr. Theissen performed a first reading of Ordinance 01-2022, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending various sections of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Wright to amend speed limits, parking restrictions, listed stop signs, and City stickers, amending Chapter 70 to 75 of Title VII of the City of Fort Wright Code of Ordinances.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 01-2022. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**Municipal Order 01-2022 Declaring Surplus Property** – Ms. Bailey advised this is the final listing of the remaining property related to the closure of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. She said attempts were made to return all loaned property, and she thanked the Behringer-Crawford Museum, including Executive Director Laurie Risch and Curator of Collections Jason French, along with Jeannine Kreinbrink, for their assistance. Ms. Bailey said Behringer-Crawford Museum has taken all items they want and any items of historical value to the City have been retained. She said these items remaining have no donor record.

Mr. Theissen read Municipal Order 01-2022, an order declaring surplus property and authorizing disposal of such property by destruction and/or recycling.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve Municipal Order 01-2022. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Improvement Committee – Chair Councilman Feinauer** – Councilman Feinauer said the Committee met on this afternoon to discuss action items, including designing a new City flag. There was discussion on the new flag options and Ms. Bailey advised she would request a few designs to present to Council.

Councilman Feinauer said the Committee decided to move forward with some of the new gateway signage that will be placed on City streets. Ms. Bailey said she would reach back out to the state for more information on those that will be placed on state roads.

Ms. Bailey added that the digital sign in front of the City Administration Building will be updated to reflect the logo that is currently being used. She said the goal is to have all of the signage be cohesive throughout the City.

**Finance Committee – Chair Councilman Wessels** – Councilman Weber referenced a recent RedTree Investment report, saying the benchmark interest rates have gone up slightly. Ms. Bailey said she plans to have RedTree Investment Group attend the April Council Meeting to review the City's investments.

## **CAO REPORT**

Ms. Bailey said the City's employee health insurance policy has been renewed effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. She said the increase was 3.95% which is less than what had been budgeted.

Ms. Bailey announced that Fire Lieutenant Cynthia Beyer-Ford has announced her retirement and the City is sorry to see her go.

Mayor Hatter thanked Ms. Bailey and staff for keeping insurance increases so low.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Administration/Finance** – Ms. Russell said that unpaid 2021 property tax bills are now delinquent. She also said she has been working to plan Specialist Hampton's retirement celebration and will be working on Lt. Ford's celebration, to be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Russell said that the total delinquent amount for tangible property taxes for 2021 is \$38,765.78 and the total delinquent amount for real property taxes is \$103,828.89. She said the amount delinquent for real property taxes is increased because of a reporting issue that is including all years of delinquent taxes and she will report a more accurate number at the next meeting.

Ms. Bailey thanked Ms. Russell for her hard work during tax season, and the department heads for their hard work and support while she was out with a medical issue for a few weeks at the end of the year.

**Police Department** – Chief Butler announced that Officer Matt Betustak graduated from the Kentucky Police Academy in December and is now on night shift. He said there are two vacancies in the department, and one is close to being filled.

Chief Butler announced that Officer Desiree Getz gave birth to a baby boy on December 30<sup>th</sup>. He also said that Officer Brad Keller's father has died and asked for him to be kept in thoughts and prayers.

Chief Butler thanked residents, Councilmembers, and staff who contributed to the Cram the Cruiser event in December at Walmart and through Fort Wright businesses, including NKY Bargain Outlet. He said the Department was able to donate over \$9,000 worth of toys and gift cards to Fort Wright Elementary families.

**Public Works Department** – Ms. Bailey said Mr. Bethell is not in attendance for this meeting because he and his team are preparing for potential snow overnight.

Mayor Hatter thanked Mr. Bethell and his staff for doing a great job through the last few snow events with limited resources. He commented on the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 6's outreach to Mr. Bethell for assistance on state-maintained roads inside City limits during snow and ice events. Mayor Hatter said he had a conversation with Bob Yeager, Chief District Engineer, regarding their request and appreciated him providing the state's perspective on staffing shortages causing their teams to have issues reaching all state-maintained roads in a timely manner. He advised residents that there may be delays in getting City streets treated or cleared if the state is unable to handle their roads, and that roads may have to be shut down until they can be reached.

Mayor Hatter said he also spoke with Mr. Yeager about the Brent Spence Bridge project and its impact on the City of Fort Wright. He said Mr. Yeager advised him the most recent information is what is available on the District 6 website. Mayor Hatter suggested getting a formal resolution together stating Council's opinion on the proposed project, which would put Council on record for the state, District 6, Senator Chris McDaniel, and Representative Kim Banta.

Ms. Bailey discussed the 2022 Street Program, saying the design portion is complete and the project is ready to go to bid. She said she anticipates bids will be available to present to Council at the March meeting. Ms. Bailey said the preliminary cost is \$454,000 to resurface Barrington Road, Morris Road, Howard Road, Glasgow Court, Glengarry Way, and Tartan Drive. She said they will also be working to replace a water main in the area with the Northern Kentucky Water District. Mayor Hatter advised the full five-year street plan is on the City's website for residents to review.

**Fire/ALS Department** – Ms. Bailey advised that Lt. Ford will be retiring at the end of the month, and she hopes to honor her at the February Council Meeting. Ms. Bailey said Lt. Ford was one of the first three full-time hires by the Fire Department and she has done a great job. Chief Schewe added that Lt. Ford took care of a lot of EMS-related items, and he hopes to have her complete a management system switch before she leaves. He said he is very happy for Lt. Ford, but sad for the department.

Chief Schewe thanked the Covington Fire Department and their Chief, Mark Pierce, for their assistance with the InterPlastic Corporation incident. He also thanked Kenton County Emergency Management and the EPA for assistance. He said he plans to have a report from InterPlastic soon regarding the incident.

Chief Schewe said that ambulance inspections will begin soon, and live fire training continues.

Mayor Hatter thanked the Fire Department for responding to his father's neighbor's house. Chief Schewe asked for thoughts and prayers for a former Fort Wright Fire Department volunteer, Mark Nutter, who is sick.

**Legal Counsel** – Mr. Theissen said he is working on two foreclosures for the City.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's** – Mayor Hatter acknowledged letters thanking the Police Department for unlocking a car, from volunteers for their Thank You gifts, and from the family of Public Works Laborer Mike Hoerlein, whose mother passed away in December.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents of the importance of donating blood. He recommended contacting Hoxworth for more information.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Witt – She asked residents to turn on their porch lights for people walking when it is dark. She also announced the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean-Up Day will be held in April and a date will be announced soon.

Mayor Hatter added that the Public Works Department is small, but if residents see a spot that needs attention to let staff know. He also asked residents out walking to wear bright colors and bring flashlights to help to be seen by cars.

Councilman Feinauer – He wished everyone a Happy belated New Year. He also asked that residents check in on their neighbors.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell  
City Clerk