



# City of Fort Wright

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## City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 6:00 PM

### CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:39 PM by Mayor Dave Hatter following the conclusion of the Special Council Meeting.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**Fort Henry Stabilization Project (CT Consultants)** – Mr. Martin Hellman, Project Manager with CT Consultants, presented information to Council regarding the second phase of the wall stabilization on Fort Henry Drive from Pickett Drive toward Bunker Court. He said advertising for the bid will be on January 28, 2021, with bid opening to be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hellman said the project received emergency road funding from the state of Kentucky, half of which has already been received and the other half will be provided upon completion. He said the Amsterdam Road project needs to be completed before closing off intersections, and he is hopeful for this project to start in July or August. He said it must be completed by September 8<sup>th</sup> according to the agreement with the state for the funding. He does not expect this timeline to be an issue.

Mr. Hellman said they are working with Ford Development to have the Amsterdam Road project completed early, potentially in June or July, and they are waiting on weather to improve so that paving can begin. He said they will ask Ford Development to focus on getting the two intersections finished so residents can get in and out, then they will work on the middle section.

Mr. Hellman also discussed the geotechnical firm, Terracon, who is designing the wall. He said they designed the first phase of this wall and there has been a significant drop in the slope. He continued, saying movement was always expected but it dropped more and quicker than anticipated. He said there is a little concern as the biggest exposure is at 13.5 feet and the wall is designed to have 18 feet exposed. Mr. Hellman said this means it is within the parameters of how the wall was designed but there is concern if it continues. He said he does not expect the wall to catastrophically fail, but it is important for the City to monitor. He explained that monitoring can be as simple as Public Works Director Jeff Bethell checking it with a measuring tape or as complex as very expensive options like Terracon coming out to do testing and analysis. He recommended to Council that Mr. Bethell begin monthly measuring.

Councilman Feinauer asked Mr. Hellman about the curb, saying he does not think it is high enough to catch water on Fort Henry causing it to go straight over. Mr. Hellman recommended building a small soil berm to keep this from occurring and then when Fort Henry is reconstructed it will get a full height curb. He also said SD1 [Sanitation District No. 1 of Northern Kentucky] has work going on to address issues

with storm pipes and temporary fixes, and the hillside is also moving, which has not helped with this water issue.

Councilwoman Witt asked if there were any concerns about the other side of the road. Mr. Hellman said it was a valley and the developers brought in fill but probably did not use good materials and may not have compacted it correctly. He said in the future there may be issues on the other side but there is no evidence of that at this time.

Mayor Hatter said the big picture is that a lot of money was spent, using mostly grants, on this project and he asked if the City should try to be proactive to stave off disaster if the road goes over the side of the hill, by testing on the other side. Mr. Hellman said if it continues the way it is, the concern is that it will be deep enough that the wall is not working. He said the fix there would be to drill into the hillside and anchor to the wall, which will cost more than what was and will be spent on both walls combined, potentially \$500,000 or more to stabilize. He said the most economical option is to turn both ends into a cul-de-sac, but that would leave two dead ends in the subdivision which is not ideal.

Councilman Wall and Councilman Feinauer discussed further what caused this issue. Councilman Feinauer said the developer hired a grading team that may not have been the best. He said Pickett Drive was also not graded properly as well as the other side of General Drive. He mentioned that the mixture is more sand than soil so it would not have compacted the way it should have, and the sloping did not help either. He said it is a combination of human error and nature.

Mr. Hellman addressed the stability, saying he can request Terracon provide a proposal on slope stability. Mayor Hatter asked Mr. Hellman to obtain a proposal from Terracon for that testing to see what the cost of stabilizing may be. He continued saying the City is grateful for all the grant money received but does not want to keep spending money to find out in 10 years it will not be worth it. Council agreed on requesting Terracon provide a proposal for both sides of Fort Henry Drive.

**Decorative Street Sign Post Installation Policy** – Mayor Hatter said this issue came up because of new development occurring near the Lookout Heights Civic Club. He said he was on Council when tens of thousands of dollars were spent by the City to put up the new street signs to have consistency. He said there had been some discussion of an Ordinance not existing, but it does exist and the developers will have to comply.

Mr. Theissen added that items like this Ordinance go into the Subdivision Regulations adopted by the Kenton County Planning Commission. He said their regulations defer to City Ordinances as different cities choose different things. He said after researching they were able to locate the Ordinance from 2003 that established the standard and no further action is needed by Council on this matter.

Ms. Bailey said that Mr. Bethell has spoken with Berling Engineering, the developers, about the Ordinance. She said they are now waiting on their street light plans. She also said the City will add the streets to the stop sign list.

Mr. Abeln asked who will inspect the streets and Mr. Bethell said PDS [Planning and Development Services of Kenton County] will complete inspections. Councilman Feinauer commented that PDS has regulations very similar to CT Consultants, which is the firm that inspects the City streets.

Councilman Feinauer asked about the streetlights. Mr. Bethell said he is waiting for those plans to be sent over, but he knows that Duke Energy and Fischer Homes have signed off. Ms. Bailey commented that Duke Energy has a small selection of streetlights to choose from and that the City Ordinance does not specify street light poles, just street sign poles.

**General Drive No Parking Request** – Mr. Bethell said he spoke to a resident a while back regarding a No Parking sign at 412 General Drive. He said the resident has requested it be moved because when he backs out of his driveway, he cannot see people coming around the bend and they cannot see him. The resident requested the sign be moved back 20 feet to the other side of the driveway so he can back out to the other side of the road and avoid oncoming cars.

There was some discussion, including Councilman Feinauer asking if this was the sign that was moved a couple years ago and Councilwoman Witt asking about standard line of sight issues. Mayor Hatter said he lives back there, and it is not generally a heavily parked area and he has no issues with moving the sign because the line of sight around the bend is poor.

Councilman Abeln asked if there was something regarding line-of-sight that the City needs to comply with. Ms. Bailey said CT Consultants has a traffic engineer that could help, and Mr. Bethell said PDS also has a traffic engineer. Mayor Hatter said the City needs to determine what the proper thing to do is to stay within those standards.

Mayor Hatter confirmed that Council is amenable to the request to move the No Parking sign but will look into it a bit further to take the correct actions. He asked if this needed to be done via City Ordinance and Mr. Theissen confirmed that Council will need to take official action.

Mr. Theissen added that he and Ms. Bailey reviewed this information and realized the City Ordinances are antiquated, including one that shows the City has only six stop signs. He said the Police Department has completed a detailed sign survey and an Ordinance is being drafted to correct these errors.

There was discussion about Fort Henry Drive parking and potentially switching the parking side of the street to help curb speeding. It was determined this would help but would be dangerous for those unfamiliar with the changes. Councilwoman Witt further requested a stop sign at Bunker Court and it was determined that would be explored to assist with downhill traffic speeds.

**MRA Funding Formula – KLC Legislative Priority** – Ms. Bailey said there is a movement with in KLC [Kentucky League of Cities] to modernize the formula for MRA [Municipal Road Aid] funding and approach the state legislature in this session. She said the proposed formula has not been released but she knows it will increase funding. She advised Council that they were provided with the last ten years of income and it has not changed much. She continued, saying the problem with the income information is the expenses were not tracked the same way, as they were recorded differently among line items and charts of accounts. Mayor Hatter clarified that the funding was all spent on roads and Ms. Bailey confirmed that the funding must be spent on roads, salt, sand, and signs.

Mayor Hatter said action cannot be taken by Council for two more weeks and it may be a moot point. He commented that the MRA funding is nice but in the grand scheme of the City budget it is a relatively

small amount. He also questioned why the state was sending money to fix Fort Wright streets, but we will not turn down the funding if they send it. He continued, saying he knows that MRA funding dates to the 1940's when the state was much more rural. He emphasized that the funding should be allocated to those areas with more traffic as the current funding formula is unfair to the residential urban areas.

Councilwoman Witt mentioned that the information given does not say what the formula will change to, just that it will change. Mayor Hatter said he would not sign off on anything until that is clarified, as the updates could be unfavorable to Fort Wright. He asked Ms. Bailey to reach out to JD Chaney [Executive Director, KLC] to find out more information on the updated formula to confirm if it is positive action.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Witt – She suggested having a volunteer opportunity listing for residents and students, to include things like Clean Up Day or other events where help is needed. Mayor Hatter said this is a good idea, but this has been done in the past to get people engaged but over time the participation drops off. He suggested he and Councilwoman Witt discuss further.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

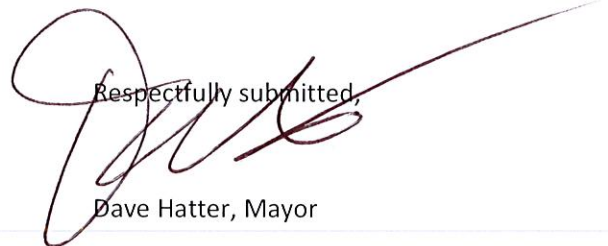
## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilman Feinauer made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell  
City Clerk