



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Council 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	Present
Councilman Wessels	Absent
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Bailey
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell
Finance Clerk Kelly Perry

Mayor Hatter welcomed Councilman Collins, saying he is happy to have him on Council and looks forward to working with him.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Abstain
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Abstain	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

RedTree Investment Review & Update – Joe Violand, Portfolio Manager with RedTree Investment Group, addressed Council regarding the City's investments with the firm. He reminded Council that RedTree acts as an investment advisory with a fiduciary requirement to act in the best interest of the City and its residents. He also reminded Council of the firm's three investment objectives: safety of principal; liquidity; and market rate of return.

Mr. Violand addressed the recent market fluctuations and how inflation, the job market, and global risks impact the City's investments. He proposed pulling about 10% of the invested funds, approximately \$300,000, to reinvest in one of two ways: selling longer-term securities and reinvesting to bring the maturity date forward or selling current longer-term securities and reinvesting in even longer-term securities to lock in a larger benefit over a longer period.

Mayor Hatter said the turn-around time for any decision will need to be quick, as the market is fluctuating and any quote RedTree provides will only be good for a short amount of time, potentially less than one day. It was determined that Mayor Hatter will need to make the decision very quickly, with the blessing of Council.

Councilman Weber made a motion to allow Mayor Hatter to sell roughly \$300,000 of securities and approve or deny a proposal from RedTree to reinvest the funds. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

Mayor Hatter requested to amend the agenda to include discussion and a first reading of Ordinance 01-2023 regarding parking restrictions in the City. Councilman Abeln made the motion to amend the agenda. Councilman Weber made the second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

PDS Appointments for 2023 – Mayor Hatter thanked Councilman Wessels for his long-time commitment to being the City’s representative to the PDS Council, saying his knowledge and skill for the work is great. He said Councilman Wessels has offered to be the City’s representative again, but the City will need to replace former Councilman Feinauer who was the alternate to that Council.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to reappoint Councilman Wessels as the City’s PDS Council representative. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Abeln made a motion to appoint Councilman Collins as the City’s PDS Council alternate. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 01-2023 – Parking Ban on Portion of Fort Henry Drive – Mayor Hatter said that the safety and traffic concerns on Fort Henry Drive near Glengarry Way have become chronic issues and are only going to get worse. He said the proposed Ordinance would restrict parking on only a portion of the street, as well as update language to an already-existing restriction further up Fort Henry Drive at Lookout Court.

Ms. Bailey added that this full Ordinance will be reviewed soon as there are other small updates that will need to be added, but this is being addressed now because of the urgency of the safety situation. Mayor Hatter said that he has aimed to not restrict parking access across the City and could only think of two or three other times he has done this in 20 years. He said this is a safety issue that must be addressed.

Ms. Bailey completed a first reading of Ordinance 01-2023, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending Chapter 75 Parking Restrictions of the City of Fort Wright Code of Ordinances prohibiting parking on part of Fort Henry Drive near Glengarry Way. Ms. Bailey added the specific area identified for parking restriction will be two places on Fort Henry Drive: part of the south/west side of Fort Henry Drive

between the driveway serving 422 Fort Henry Drive and Amsterdam Road and the north/east side of Fort Henry Drive for fire lane restrictions between Amsterdam Road and Lookout Court.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 01-2023. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Councilman Weber – Councilman Weber said all was covered with RedTree Investment Group’s presentation.

Community Improvement Committee – Councilwoman Witt – Councilwoman Witt suggested a review of the Committee structure at the next Caucus Meeting.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey thanked Chief Butler for his work in getting multiple surplus items sold via GovDeals, bringing in over \$25,000 for the City.

Councilman Weber suggested reaching out to the businesses being displaced by the Brent Spence Bridge redesign to invite them to relocate in Fort Wright. There was discussion on working with local developers to promote certain parcels and Ms. Bailey said she is open to having those conversations. Mayor Hatter suggested a revamped Economic Development committee or group could work on continuous outreach with local realtors.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – Ms. Russell said taxes were due on December 30th and approximately \$220,000 is considered late at this time. She said the department has been maintaining steady passport acceptance appointments and rentals for South Hills Civic Club.

Mayor Hatter thanked residents and business owners for their prompt payment of taxes.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe said the department will start their paramedic refresher classes in February.

Police Department – Chief Butler thanked everyone for their patience and cooperation during the interstate shutdowns that occurred today for President Biden’s visit to Covington. He said everything seemed to go smoothly thanks to the hard work by the United States Secret Service and the Boone County Sheriff.

Chief Butler thanked those who participated in or donated to the toy drive for Fort Wright Elementary, saying the department was able to provide over \$2,000 worth of toys and hygiene items for families at the school.

Public Works Department – Mr. Bethell said CT Consultants is working on the design phase of the Fort Henry Drive project and working with SD1 and the Northern Kentucky Water District on their needs during the project. He said he is also finishing the litter abatement grant, noting that the department gathered over 300 bags of garbage in 2022.

Mr. Bethell said the first snowstorm of the season was last week and it went well despite the nature of the storm. He said new Public Works Laborer Shane Harkins did a good job. Mayor Hatter thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work.

Councilman Abeln asked if the declared snow emergency helped their operations at all and Mr. Bethell said there were still people who did not move their vehicles. Mayor Hatter added that he does not like to declare snow emergencies and he did receive some complaints because of the timing of the declaration. He asked residents to please move their vehicles if they are able when a forecasted storm is coming to aid in the safety of the staff plowing and treating roads and for emergency response. Mr. Bethell added that cars parked on the roads are difficult to see when visibility is greatly reduced, like it was in the storm that just occurred, and it makes it harder on neighbors to keep their spaces cleared.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Theissen was not present.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – There were no employee recognitions or special thank yous.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Witt – She said the 10th annual community clean up day will be in April again, but she is hoping to organize smaller clean-ups of problem areas on a regular basis. She asked anyone who was interested in volunteering to reach out.

Mayor Hatter said the Kentucky legislature is in a 30-day session and he will ask Senator Chris McDaniel and Representative Stephanie Dietz to attend a Council meeting to provide an update once session is closed.

Mayor Hatter discussed the Brent Spence Bridge announcement made this afternoon, saying the funding is secured and as soon as more information is available it will be published on the City's website where a dedicated page has been added. He said he is looking forward to more information about the design of the Kyles Lane overpass and noise barriers. He said he knows that inconveniences will be caused from the Bridge and Fort Henry Drive projects, and he appreciates residents' patience through these projects. He also thanked those who assisted in securing funding for the Brent Spence Bridge without tolls, including former Council members and former Mayor Joe Nienaber Jr.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that tree recycling is available at the City Building through January 17th and holiday light recycling is available until February 1st. Councilwoman Witt said some of the trees will be taken to Camp Ernst and placed in the lake for fish habitats.

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 Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell, City Clerk