



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane

Fort Wright, KY 41011

www.fortwright.com

859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Dave Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll:

Councilman Abeln	Absent
Councilman Feinauer	Here
Councilman Wall	Here
Councilman Weber	Here
Councilman Wessels	Here
Councilwoman Witt	Here

Also present for this meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Kyle Winslow
Interim Police Chief Captain Jonathan Colwell
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Engineer Mark Brueggemann

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Anastasi Fafalios recently purchased 413 Pickett, having closed on the home purchase on August 23, 2019. He advised Council that he had never received a property tax bill from the City of Fort Wright and received the tax bill from Kenton County after it was past due, which he paid immediately. The County was able to waive some their fees because of the circumstances. He received notification via the USPS Informed Delivery service that the City bill was being re-routed to the former owner's new address, so he came to the City Building to pay the bill in full. Mr. Fafalios requested the penalty and interest on the tax bill be waived because of the mail routing issues. Mayor Hatter said in his time as Mayor they have not waived any penalty and interest fees for property taxes, but it is not under his authority as mayor to waive the fees – it is up to legal counsel and the City Council to set the ordinance. The Mayor also said the City could run into an issue of setting boundaries on waiving fees. If this is done for one owner, what would stop any owner from coming in to request a waiver. Council could consider a waiver option for residents to request waivers, but Mr. Winslow advised the tax bills are due per the ordinance, not when

you receive the letter, so he cautioned that residents can't say they didn't pay because they did not get their letter. Ms. Bailey noted that the notices are sent to the property owner of record with Kenton County as of January 1 and the City does not have control over that information. Additionally, the City is not obligated to send a tax bill, but it is done as a courtesy for the owners in the City. Mayor Hatter reminded those present that it is not the intent of the City to hit people with extra fees and penalties, but the City does have multiple communication methods with residents, including the digital sign in front of the City Building, Facebook, Twitter, and email, to try to create an environment where this does not happen and ensure people know when the deadlines are coming. Mr. Wessels asked if state law permits any waiver options for council members. Mr. Winslow said you could establish a board to waive for mitigating circumstances, but he has never seen that happen. Mr. Fafalios thanked Council for their time in addressing his request. Mr. Feinauer asked if this issue could be brought to a committee to look at the tax law, what is involved, and if there are options. He also mentioned the street signs that Park Hills puts up announcing tax bills. These are affixed to existing poles around their city so it is hard to miss if you are driving through Park Hills. Mayor Hatter agreed that was a reasonable request and thanked Mr. Fafalios for attending the meeting.

Jane Kleman – here on behalf of Fort Wright Hilltoppers, the senior citizens club. The club was established in the 1970's for seniors of Fort Wright to come together once a month to socialize. 15 years ago, the former president Barb Hellman approached the City about providing rental fees/services and a Christmas party. On Monday, Ms. Kleman received a call that the City would no longer be paying for the rental. She requested more information so they can tell their members what is going to happen next. Ms. Bailey responded that Council has not had time to discuss this yet, but the City received a call about paying rent for this group and she did not know what it was for and it was not budgeted. Other clubs that benefit Fort Wright residents but are not associated with the City do not get this benefit. Ms. Kleman said the membership is approximately 50% current Fort Wright residents, with another 30% having lived at least most of their lives in the City but have moved because of health issues. Mayor Hatter agreed to allow the club to use the South Hills Civic Club for a short period of time to allow Council time to discuss a long-term solution.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

2020 Street Proposal – Combined Asphalt/Concrete Bid – Mark Brueggemann, City Engineer

Mr. Brueggeman confirmed that the street program is all set for this year. Resurfacing will occur for E Henry Clay, Christine, and Upland, and total reconstruction of Ridgemont and Helen Ruth. The projects are scheduled to advertise for bids on April 30 and open bids on May 14. They will be two separate bids because of the type of contracts needed. Ms. Bailey confirmed there will be two separate bids and two separate contractors. Mr. Brueggemann suggested an alternate set-up moving forward: pick either resurfacing or reconstruction for the year. This can give better economy of scale for better pricing and only dealing with one contractor at a time. The negative side is the public perception because the City would not be doing both resurfacing and reconstruction at one time. Mr. Wessels advised this idea came out of committee to allow contractors to know the City of Fort Wright will be doing projects every year and can count on that; if it was alternated, it could cause contractors to look for work elsewhere and not be interested or available for bidding when our work comes up. Mr. Brueggemann said he has not seen that be an issue and would recommend doing bidding earlier in the season when contractors are looking for work; having a larger contract could also make it more enticing for the contractors. Mr. Brueggemann also reminded Council that the street program as developed is a systematic approach to

maximize dollars spent to keep all streets in a high-level of service, versus paying a lot of money to fix bad streets while letting good streets fall into disrepair.

Sleepy Hollow Sidewalk/Crosswalk Issue

Ms. Bailey discussed the sidewalk on Sleepy Hollow Road and recently requested review by the Sheriff to eliminate the mid-block crosswalk. It was determined by the Sheriff that it is an unsafe crossing, and updated reflective gear was provided for the crossing guard along with potential training areas to address. There is the potential for redesign, with a cost of \$154,000. Mayor Hatter agreed that it needed to be fixed, but the road is owned and maintained by the State, and it needs to be addressed at that level. Ms. Bailey suggested grants, such as Safe Routes to School, but those projects can take years. Mr. Feinauer and Mr. Weber advised this is a safety issue and something needs to be done. Mayor Hatter suggested posting a police officer to enforce existing laws, and Interim Police Chief/Captain Colwell said there are highway safety grants that could pay for the overtime needed for enforcement. Mayor Hatter said the short-term solution is grants for police department overtime staffing and the Council and City will work with the State for long-term solutions.

Zoning Code update – Fence Images

Mr. Bethell discussed an issue with a graphic within the City's zoning code pertaining to fences. There is a hashmark that alludes that you could put a fence from the corner of a building to the street, which contradicts every other graphic. Mr. Bethell requested Council approve the removal of the graphic, which Z21 will take care of this year. Ms. Bailey confirmed she can file a text amendment, but it needs no action, just approval, because there will be a process for voting which is done through an ordinance. Mr. Bethell said they also want to add the R1FF zoning text, regarding a parking situation, which will clear up a technical issue. Ms. Bailey said they will file both text amendments through the planning commission, there will be a hearing, and then it will come back to Council for final action.

Fire/EMS Service Contracts

Ms. Bailey said she and Chief Schewe met with the Park Hills Mayor to discuss the service contract for their city. They are working through their budget and want to know if/how much of an increase there will be for services. Ms. Bailey said they will need to calculate the numbers, but she does not recommend an increase if it is not necessary. Chief Schewe said he doesn't anticipate an increase over 5% and will probably be close to 2-4%. Mayor Hatter wants to be sure any increase in costs is fairly accounted for, so undue burden is not put on the residents of Fort Wright who are paying for the services. Chief Schewe said the department makes less than 300 calls to Park Hills each year. Mayor Hatter requested the City respond in a timely matter, so they are kept in the loop along the way of any increases for services provided.

Ongoing "Projects/Issues" list review

Ms. Bailey stated she received a letter from Kathleen Romero resigning from the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum Board of Directors, effective immediately. The Board will be appointing Linda Hornsby as

the new President and have asked for two new members to be approved for addition to the board. The museum can have up to seven members, and there are currently five. The two new members do not reside in Fort Wright; one lives in Ohio and the other in Covington, but they both bring specific backgrounds to the board that they think will be beneficial. This will be an agenda item for consideration at the next meeting.

Ms. Witt expressed concern about the dates of modification on the "Projects/Issues" document. Ms. Bailey said she has been updating the work in progress components but has not updated the list or spreadsheet. She said she will update closed items.

Agenda Amendment

A motion was made by Ms. Witt to amend the agenda to discuss an unsolicited written materials ordinance. Mr. Wessels seconded the motion. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll:

Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmembers discussed the existing Lexington ordinance regarding unsolicited materials, specifically "DoorStore"-like fliers/advertisement bags that are being left in the street, curb gutters, and on sidewalks. Mr. Wessels said he would like to revisit the ordinance to see what additional action the City can take against the companies leaving these bags in unallowed areas. Mayor Hatter asked if anyone was opposed to revisiting the ordinance to reduce or eliminate these items. Mr. Winslow advised one consideration is that any action taken may apply to all unsolicited written materials, including the Community Recorder, and could be financially prohibitive for a company or person. Mr. Winslow said he would reach out to the city of Lexington to see if their ordinance is still in effect and how they are enforcing it. Mayor Hatter asked if Councilmembers would like it on the agenda, and it was agreed to be added.

Mayor Hatter advised end of amended agenda and said there was no need for executive session.

Ms. Witt announced City clean-up day will be Saturday, April 18.

Mr. Wessels thanked everyone for their thoughts, cards, and wishes upon his father's passing.

Mayor Hatter thanked everyone who participated in the police chief hiring process. Kenton County Sheriff Pat Morgan spent time during the first round of interviews, on his own time, to provide insight and technical expertise. The field was narrowed to three candidates, who were interviewed on Tuesday, February 4, by the HR committee, Mr. Wessels, and Interim Police Chief/Captain Colwell. An offer has been extended and will be announced soon, but all candidates were impressive.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

Mayor Hatter called for a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Wessels motioned, and was seconded by Mr. Feinauer. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll:

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

MOTION CARRIED

The caucus meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Hatter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maura Russell', written in a cursive style.

Maura Russell
City Clerk