



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 17, 2021 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus 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	Here
Councilman Feinauer	Here
Councilman Wall	Here
Councilman Weber	Here
Councilman Wessels	Here
Councilwoman Witt	Here

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Captain Jonathan Colwell
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments or guests.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Fort Wright Code 70 through 75 – Traffic Schedule Updates & Review – Ms. Bailey said the City's Code of Ordinances needs to be cleaned up and legislation needs to be adopted regarding stops signs and speed limits around the City, which will clean up Code 70 through 75. She said Council will need to make decisions on parking on General Drive and updating signage in Park Grove and Williams Creek. Ms. Bailey said Jeff Bethell, Public Works Director, was going to review this but he has not had time because of the weather. She asked Council to review the existing Ordinances to see if there is anything else to clean up so this can be placed on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Ms. Bailey reminded Council that the City will be paying to publish this Ordinance and will pay each time it is updated. She advised they have removed the parking sticker requirement, as that had been eliminated before she arrived. Mr. Theissen said a typo was found in the original information that was not changing, so it will be corrected.

Councilman Weber asked if the Ordinance could be put on Facebook and Mayor Hatter said that was no problem, but the City would need to identify the intent of putting that full text on the City's Facebook

page. He asked if putting it on Facebook would be just for informational purposes or if Council wished to gain feedback. There was also discussion on previous parking issues that had come before Council but have since been resolved so no changes were needed.

Ms. Bailey said they will work to clean up the last few items. She also said PDS [Planning and Development Services of Kenton County] will work on the traffic pattern on General Drive and provide a recommendation at the next Council Meeting.

Waste Collection & Recycling Service Contract Review (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023) – Ms. Bailey said the current contract with Rumpke for waste and recycling collection ends on June 30, 2021. She said the previous bid was for six years with two-year incremental reviews. She said the current price for the 2019 to 2021 increment is \$14.95 per month and the new price, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023, will be \$16.40 per month. She said this increases the amount from \$183.00 to \$196.00 annually. She asked Council if they wished to renew or rebid and reminded Council that the last time this went for bid only one was received, from Rumpke. Mayor Hatter said the risk of rebidding the contract could mean a price increase.

Councilman Weber asked if Bavarian was still doing waste removal and Ms. Bailey said they no longer do pickup.

Councilman Wessels asked what surrounding cities are charging their residents. Ms. Bailey said she will have more information on prices for review next week. She said Rumpke lost the Taylor Mill contract to Republic Services and Erlanger considered changing but stayed with Republic. She said there is time to rebid and still hold the current contract, but the risk comes with potential price increases. She also asked Council if there were any services they would like changed, as last time it was indicated they did not. She also reminded Council that the current contract includes free recycling cans and bins, and low-cost rental of waste cans.

Councilman Wall said that there would not be an apples-to-apples comparison of services once that information is available and Ms. Bailey confirmed that, saying different cities have different points in their contracts. She cautioned Council that changing vendors could mean Rumpke requesting all their cans back and the new vendor pushing out their cans and asked if residents would want to deal with that. She also said some cities make vendors bill residents directly, so Fort Wright makes it easier for residents by adding it to the tax bills.

After some small discussion, Ms. Bailey said it sounds like the majority want to stay with Rumpke and she would add the contract renewal to the next Council Meeting agenda and notify them of the City's intent. She said when tax rates are established Council will need to determine how much to pass on to residents as it is generally a pass-through service.

Fire/EMS Service Update – Ms. Bailey advised Council that it is time to renew the contracts held with the city of Kentonvale for EMS and Fire service and the city of Park Hills for EMS. She said the Finance Committee met regarding the cost of services versus what Fort Wright is receiving in revenue and

worked on the numbers and would like to meet with Park Hills' Finance Committee before finalizing the contract.

There was discussion on the current contracts, with Councilman Wessels saying the city of Park Hills pays \$86,000 per year based on per capita rates and the Finance Committee is considering giving a credit for mutual aid services provided by their police department. Captain Colwell confirmed that Park Hills Police Department provides some mutual aid in the North Dixie Highway, Kyles Lane, and Sleepy Hollow Road areas. Councilman Wessels asked for more information and numbers for the Police mutual aid so it can be factored into the decision. He also commented that if this contract were not renewed, the Fort Wright Fire Department would still perform mutual aid services for whichever department picked up the contract.

Mayor Hatter clarified the comments by Councilman Wessels, saying the idea is that the Fort Wright Fire Department is already providing services to the other cities and rather than having Fort Wright residents absorb all that cost the City wants to offset some of the cost and break down barriers between the cities. He said Fort Mitchell has approached the City in the past about high mutual aid numbers and Fort Wright hired additional Fire Department staff. He said Fort Wright sometimes provides back up to Covington. He commented that any revenue from Park Hills is better than none because the Fire Department will respond there regardless.

There was discussion about the budgeted amount of Fire Department expenses divided out among the population of Fort Wright and with Park Hills residents included. Ms. Bailey said the Fire Department budget is \$1,428,000, which is \$248.00 per Fort Wright resident or \$161.00 per Fort Wright, Park Hills, and Kentonvale residents combined. Councilman Wessels clarified to say that this is for ambulance service only, as Park Hills has their own fire department.

Mayor Hatter requested clarification on the credit information to which Councilman Wessels referred. Ms. Bailey said Park Hills' portion should be about \$336,000, but the Finance Committee wants to recognize benefits that Fort Wright receives from Park Hills. She said this includes billing for insurance and mutual aid for fire and police service. She said they are trying to deduct benefits to Fort Wright, so it is equitable to the City and its residents. Mayor Hatter agreed it is in the best interest of the City to maintain a good relationship and gave credit to Mayor Gene Weaver for starting this compensation program during his term.

Councilman Feinauer asked about the formula and Ms. Bailey said one will need to be created. Councilman Wessels agreed and said they are trying to be transparent and upfront about costs and creating the formula will help future City Council members understand how this Council got to this place and figure. Councilman Wessels said the conversation with the Park Hills Finance Committee would allow them to discuss a long-range plan to help with that city's budgeting for these services in the future.

Ms. Bailey said she and Chief Schewe had discussed visiting Park Hills City Council Meetings last year to give their leaders face time and discuss the services Fort Wright is providing, but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented that from happening. Councilman Wessels asked Mayor Hatter to reach out to the Park Hills mayor to discuss a new contract and Chief Schewe to reach out to Gary Huff, a member of the Park Hills Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

Councilman Feinauer thanked Mr. Bethell and the Public Works Department for their work. He mentioned the communication issues at the Kentucky Transportation Department's garage [where the City of Fort Wright holds its road salt] and Ms. Bailey said the issue was resolved but the garage staff may have gotten Fort Wright and Fort Mitchell confused, causing delays.

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
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

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

Maura Russell
City Clerk