



**City of Fort Wright Council Caucus Minutes
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hatter opened the caucus meeting at 6:05 PM following the conclusion of the Special Meeting.

The following council members were in attendance:

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

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Kyle Winslow
City Engineer Mark Brueggemann
Police Chief Marc Schworer
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Susan Ellis.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Amsterdam Road Project Update – CT Consultants/Dunrobin Associates

Mr. Marty Hellman of CT Consultants reported that they are in the middle of obtaining easements for project. Dunrobin Associates is a third-party company that has been contracted

to approach residents. Residents of five properties have expressed concern about eliminating area where they have been parallel parking on Amsterdam Road and have hired Attorney Gailen Bridges. Currently, although there is no parking on the right of way on Amsterdam, it has not been enforced and residents have been parking there. By eliminating the parking, technically nothing is being taken away.

The residents, however, will be losing approximately 5 feet of their driveways. City Engineer Mr. Mark Brueggemann reported that the design was to minimize the impact on the driveways and included two feet of grass for mail delivery. Mr. Hellman suggested extending the width of the sidewalk to six feet and eliminating the grass area to reduce the loss to 4 feet of the driveways. Mayor Hatter commented that it was known there would be the loss of parking from the beginning of the project. He also stated that the houses involved all have at least two car garages and that some are rental properties. Ms. Bailey shared Ordinance 3-03 which prohibits parking on Amsterdam.

Ms. Lisa Burns of Dunrobin Associates reported that some of the properties were acquired in 2016 and 2017 and that the owners, Northern Kentucky Apartments, stated that no one had said anything about the parking.

Another option would be to give the driveways a wider curb cut so that the property owner would have the option of widening the driveway. The cost would be minimal. Mayor Hatter was supportive. Ms. Bailey would review the zoning code regarding the width of the driveway. Mr. Hellman would coordinate this change as well as moving the sidewalk to a six-foot width. Councilman Wessels expressed concern that residents might choose to park on the six-foot wide sidewalk. Mayor Hatter responded that this would not be allowed and would be enforced. Council was in agreement with this option.

Responding to Mayor Hatter's question, Ms. Burns reported that she has contacted everyone involved. Eight are complete, one is out of town, and one has been ill.

Mayor Hatter brought up the issue of the misunderstanding of which trees were in the right of way that needed to be removed. Mr. Hellman reported that the easements have been outlined and that the right of way does not follow the road. There was discussion regarding replacing the trees that would need to be removed. Councilwoman Witt expressed her willingness to select the new trees and advocated a variety of species and would be selecting a native tree that was available and appropriate.

Mayor Hatter and Councilman Feinauer requested more project updates on a regular basis. Ms. Bailey responded that the updates should be in engineering reports. It was requested that there be updates at every council meeting. Mayor Hatter stated that he wanted to know as soon as possible if there was any sort of problem.

Tree Inventory Proposal

Ms. Bailey reminded Council of the ordinance adopted last year to inventory City trees. There being no expert on staff, Director of Public Works, Mr. Jeff Bethell, contacted and received a proposal from Urban Canopy Works, a company recommended by Steve Foltz, Director of Horticulture at the Cincinnati Zoo. Mr. Bethell summarized the proposal stating that he had provided a copy of the ordinance and the proposal was developed from that. Ms. Bailey expressed her concern that an inventory would create more liability. Mayor Hatter questioned if the ordinance had been over-kill and perhaps it needed to be changed before proceeding. Mr. Winslow did not see a need to change the ordinance, however, the City still needed to do the inventory to determine what trees are on city property and their condition. Mr. Bethell was directed to reject the proposal. It was suggested that the City reach out to PDS for a GIS showing city property and right of ways and to Northern Kentucky University for interns. Other options also were to be reviewed and Mr. Winslow would review the ordinance.

Economic Development Committee Update – Schroder Rezoning Request

Councilman Wessels provided the review from the Economic Development Committee. The committee recommended changing all zoning behind Mr. Schroder's property up to the first house by Walt's Hitching Post to Highway Commercial Zone. As this zone allows hotels it was recommended that restrictions to the use standards for hotels. It was also recommended to add retail to this zone to allow for Mr. Schroder to later include an office for a data facility.

A map amendment and a text amendment would be required and would involve two applications. Mr. Schroder has agreed to pay the fees.

It was the consensus of Council that there were no issues with the zone change. Language would need to be reviewed to take out items such as mobile homes. The Economic Development Committee would review and determine the hotel use standards.

Rosa Court Parking Restriction Request

Mr. Bethell reported an issue with a resident who lives at the end of Rosa Court not receiving snow removal as a result of a truck parked on the street. Snow removal equipment cannot safely get back there. There are also issues with trash removal as Rumpke cannot get back there either. This has been an ongoing issue. Mayor Hatter responded that it is a public street and the truck owner is parking legally. In response to Councilman Wall's question, Fire Chief Schewe responded that emergency vehicles could get down there if necessary. There was no interest in restricting parking in this area.

Outdoor Storage for Commercial Businesses

Mr. Bethell reported that the new Walgreen upgrades have included an outside ice chest which is considered outside storage in that zone. When he went to investigate, he passed other businesses who were doing the same thing and commented that if the City is to enforce the ordinance, it must be enforced uniformly. Mayor Hatter responded that he wants to allow such things for convenience. After some discussion it was determined that an exception needed to be added to the ordinance.

Truck Traffic on 75 – Councilman Wessels

Councilman Wessels expressed his concern regarding the number of accidents on the interstate for which the Police Department was providing services. He was concerned that from a taxpayer standpoint, the Police Department is providing time and service, but the taxpayers are not receiving anything. Hard billing or soft billing for services could be options. Chief Schewe commented that Erlanger had tried this but it did not go well. Chief Schworer commented that it was a public relations nightmare. There was further discussion regarding potential cost and implementation. Mayor Hatter requested that this be investigated to gather numbers and talk to Erlanger about their experience so that an educated assessment could be made.

Ongoing ‘Project & Issues’ List Review

Checklist of Dates & Functions: Ms. Bailey stated that she has been providing this in the weekly update. Council determined that this was sufficient. This issue was closed.

Guardrail on Viewpoint: This has been discussed and it was determined that it would be too expensive. This issue was closed.

Beautification: Councilwoman Witt requested this issue be removed from the list.

Sandmann Resolution/Covington Catholic High School Letter: Councilman Wessels requested that something be done to show support. Mayor Hatter stated that the school is not located in Fort Wright and the Sandmanns are not residents, so he would not sign a letter, however, if the Council passed a resolution he would sign that document. After some discussion it was determined that those on Council who wish to show their support would send individual letters.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting to Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810, Paragraph(c), discussions of proposed or pending litigation. Councilman made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Council returned from Executive Session and reopened the meeting to the public at 9:06 PM.

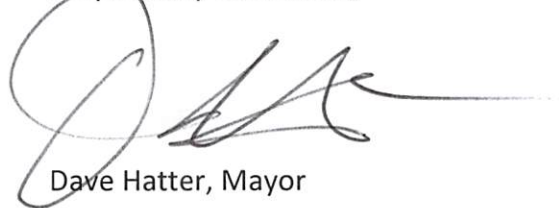
ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Feinauer made a second. All Council members present were in favor.

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Susan Ellis, City Clerk