



# City of Fort Wright

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## Fort Wright City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

6:00 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Councilman Weber in Mayor Hatter's absence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Kerrie Holland, City Clerk called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Ms. Donna Ross	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also present were CAO Jill Cain Bailey, City Attorney John S. Brooking, Chief of Police Jonathan Colwell, City Clerk Kerrie Holland, and Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson

In the absence of Mayor Hatter, Jay Weber made a motion to appoint Councilman Collins to run the meeting. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

NONE

### APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes from the January 7, 2026 City Council Meeting

Councilman Collins asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, and with no further discussion, Councilman Collins asks for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Weber made a motion and Councilwoman Ross made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes

Mr. Scott Wall Yes  
Mr. Jay Weber Yes  
Mr. Bernie Wessels Abstain  
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

#### Minutes from the January 21, 2026 City Caucus Meeting

Councilman Collins asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, and with no further discussion, Councilman Weber asks for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Weber made a motion and Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes  
Ms. Donna Ross Yes  
Mr. Scott Wall Yes  
Mr. Jay Weber Yes  
Mr. Bernie Wessels Abstain  
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

CAO-Review report from January 31, 2026 in regard to projects that are currently being worked on. CAO is available to answer any questions about the report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### PDS Council Appointments-

It is required to appoint a primary and an alternate representative for each jurisdiction to serve on the PDS Council. Currently the Primary is Bernie Wessels, and the Alternate is Jason Collins. PDS asked that individuals be reappointed at this time. Councilman Weber asked if any other council members were interested in being appointed. Councilwoman Ross volunteered to be appointed to the PDS Council as the alternative in place of Councilman Collins. Councilman Weber made a motion to accept the appointments, and Councilman Collins made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes  
Ms. Donna Ross Yes  
Mr. Scott Wall Yes  
Mr. Jay Weber Yes  
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes  
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

#### Fire/EMS & Police Department Year End 2025 Report

In the absence of Fire Chief Schewe, the Fire Department Annual report will be rescheduled for presentation at the March Council meeting.

Police Chief Colwell highlights key points of his annual report-staffing changes, agency awards, programs put on by the PD, community events, continuing education for staff, leadership development, investigations, evidence control and information audits, police equipment and

vehicle maintenance, traffic collisions(CAO added that there are two PD cruisers that will be on the March agenda that have been deemed surplus).

Mayor Hatter arrived at 6:22p.m. and took the place of Councilman Collins leading the meeting.

Councilwoman Ross mentions that Fort Wright is generally a low crime area and Councilman Collins noted that a lot of the PD activity is due to traffic accidents in the city. Mayor added that the PD is a very busy department despite it being a smaller community. The report is posted to website for viewing.

Legislative Updates, Discussions, and/or Actions

CAO Bailey presents the KLC priority legislation for review. SB91, SB112, HB495, HB276. The bill language has been included in the council packet for review. CAO encourages Council to read over the bill language.

Councilman Weber mentioned that he would like to a group action on SB91(Preparation of Real Property Taxes). Councilman Wessels made a motion for the Mayor to write a letter of opposition on SB91 on behalf of the City of Fort Wright to the State Representatives. Councilman Wall made a second. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Weber mentioned that he would like to a group action on SB112(Short-Term Rental Legislation). Councilman Weber made a motion for the Mayor to write a letter of opposition on SB112 on behalf of the City of Fort Wright to the State Representatives. Councilman Ross made a second. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Weber mentioned that he would like to a group action on HB276(Keeping Chickens on Residential Property). Councilman Witt made a motion for the Mayor to write a letter of opposition on HB276 on behalf of the City of Fort Wright to the State Representatives. Councilman Wall made a second. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes

Mr. Jay Weber Yes  
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes  
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Weber mentioned that he would like to a group action on HB495(Requires 100% of the wages of an employee associated with the corporate office to be apportioned to the local government where the corporate office is located). Councilman Weber made a motion for the Mayor to write a letter of opposition on HB495 on behalf of the City of Fort Wright to the State Representatives. Councilwoman Ross made a second. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes  
Ms. Donna Ross Yes  
Mr. Scott Wall Yes  
Mr. Jay Weber Yes  
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes  
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Wessels and Council discuss several other House Bills, HB203(Multi-family dwelling units), HB205(aiming to permit multi-unit and mixed-use developments in commercial zones), SB53(Planning and Zoning), SB54(Short-Term Rentals). CAO mentions there are 18 Bills that somehow impact land use.

Councilman Wall made a motion for the Mayor to write a letter of opposition on HB518(aims to standardize the collection of local business taxes and fees, specifically net profits, gross receipts, and payroll occupational taxes) on behalf of the City of Fort Wright to the State Representatives. Councilman Weber made a second. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes  
Ms. Donna Ross Yes  
Mr. Scott Wall Yes  
Mr. Jay Weber Yes  
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes  
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance-Councilman Weber stated that last month there were 22,000 new jobs in the U.S., compares to 700,000 last year. He mentioned that it's due to older workers working longer and jobs are not opening up. CAO-Seeders accounts are up for renewal with Republic Bank, was able to negotiate at a 5-basis point increase over a 26-week lock, which brings the interest 3.07%, APY for 26 weeks. RedTree is scheduled for the March 4<sup>th</sup> finance committee meeting.

#### Community Improvement

None

**CAO REPORT**-CAO Bailey sent report in council packet

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Administration-Passport appointments are increasing due to vacations and spring break coming up.

Finance-Delinquent taxes are still trickling in and passports are busy. CAO adds that we issue 1<sup>st</sup> delinquent tax notice in January, 2<sup>nd</sup> in February and 3<sup>rd</sup> in March. After that we hand them over to our attorney for collection. Councilman Collins addressed the issue with businesses that have delinquent property taxes and have liquor licenses. CAO mentions that it will be addressed. Councilwoman Witt would like to discuss the delinquent taxes that are also on the code enforcement list that have current violations with PDS. CAO Bailey will add that to the Caucus meeting for discussion.

Public Works- Director Bethell is not in attendance for his monthly report

Police-Chief Colwell presented annual report earlier. They have 26 calls for service that were related to snow emergency for parking violations, issued 15 citations for vehicles that were parked on the street for the snow emergency, 11 written warnings, the PD made several notifications. They would locate the vehicle owner to ask them to move their car before issuing a citation. 3 total vehicles were towed. Thank you to Specialist Wiesner assisted Public Works with snow removal.

Fire-Chief Schewe was not in attendance for his monthly report

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you to the Public Works Department again for their hard work during the recent snowstorm. Mayor Hatter apologized for missing the snow removal on Parkside neighborhood. He reassured that it was an honest oversight and it has been addressed internally so it doesn't happen again in the future. Please be patient if the snowplow hasn't been to your street yet, please give a few hours to have it removed due to the fact they clear the main roads first then work their way to the side streets.

There were nine phone calls and/or emails from residents who reached out for the wonderful service the Public Works Dept provided during the snowstorm. There were also numerous positive responses on social media as well.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn, and Councilwoman Ross made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

- Mr. Jason Collins      Yes
- Ms. Donna Ross      Yes
- Mr. Scott Wall      Yes
- Mr. Jay Weber      Yes
- Mr. Bernie Wessels    Yes
- Ms. Margie Witt      Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:25p.m.

**The next city Council Meeting is set for March 4, 2026 @ 6:00p.m.**

ATTEST:

*Kerrie A. Holland*  
Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,  
*[Signature]*  
Dave Hatter, Mayor