



# City of Fort Wright

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## City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 6:00 PM

### CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:01 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

Mayor Hatter introduced Julie Hopkins, Attorney with Strauss Troy, serving the City for this meeting in place of Tim Theissen who was unable to attend.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Hatter requested to amend the agenda to include discussion about House Bill 50/Senate Bill 50. Councilwoman Witt made a motion. 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

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**House Bill 50/Senate Bill 50** – Mayor Hatter thanked Council for their efforts to spread the word opposing these

two bills. He thanked Ms. Bailey for sending it to the City Administrators group, saying he has seen an outpouring of opposition to these measures.

Mayor Hatter discussed State Senator Damon Thayer's claims that this measure is about transparency, but cities currently have the option to hold partisan elections if they choose. He said he has heard no public support for these bills. Mayor Hatter advised he has already been, and will continue to be, active in local and statewide media, including opinion articles that have been published in LinkNKY and the Northern Kentucky Tribune, and he asked Council to continue sharing those items to reach as many people as possible.

**COFW Property Lease Agreement with Cincinnati Bell** – Ms. Bailey advised Council that Cincinnati Bell entered into an agreement with the City in 1993 to lease a portion of the Public Works Garage for \$71,000, and that lease terminates in June 2023. She said there is a renewal clause that allows Cincinnati Bell to extend the lease for 30 more years if they notified the City by February 1, 2023, and paid \$4,000. She said no notification or payment has come from the company. Ms. Bailey expressed interest in using the space for City purposes, but she requested Council's opinion.

After discussion, Council asked Ms. Bailey to draft a letter to Cincinnati Bell advising that the contract has ended and they need to vacate or extend the lease for a reasonable lease fee.

**Mobile Command Vehicle 100 User Agreement with City of Florence** – Chief Butler advised that the Mobile Command Vehicle is available for use for Northern Kentucky emergency services departments and housed at the City of Florence. He said this agreement just confirms that any damage caused to the vehicle subsequent use by an emergency department will be paid for by that department. Chief Butler confirmed the agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and the City's insurance carriers.

Council and the Mayor discussed the agreement and felt the request was reasonable by the City of Florence. It was determined that this item will come back for vote at the March Council Meeting.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Abeln requested to add discussion about trucks on I-71/75, including truck lane regulations, to the March Caucus Meeting.

Mayor Hatter advised he and Councilwoman Witt have discussed reviewing options for a third-party vendor to assist with trash pick-up in high traffic areas. There being no opposition, Mayor Hatter asked for vendor pricing information to be gathered for future discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING**

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Collins 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 6:54 PM.

  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:  
  
Maura Russell, City Clerk