



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwrightky.gov | 859.331.1700

Fort Wright Special City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Dave Hatter, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Kerrie Holland, City Clerk called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Present
Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also Present were CAO Jill Cain Bailey, City Attorney John S. Brooking, Chief of Police Jonathan Colwell, Fire Chief Steve Schewe, Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizens or guests present.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes from the January 15, 2025 Special City Council Meeting. Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment to add information pertaining to the roundabouts – “add language regarding the roundabouts to be mirrored at each end”. No further comments were made. Councilman Abeln made the second with the amendment approved. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2ND Reading – Ordinance 01-2025 re: Williams Creek Closing of ROW:

City Attorney Brooking, reads the 2nd reading of Ordinance 01-2025 aloud. He makes a note in re: to a typographical error on the Ordinance. It states, “Right Away” and it is to be corrected to “Right of Way”. No further comments were made. Councilman Collins makes a motion to approve the 2nd reading with that correction. Councilman Wall made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

Kyles Lane (KYTC Proposed) Roundabouts:

Mayor Hatter reminded everyone that the City of Fort Wright has not taken any official position on this topic as of yet. There have been plenty of conversations and discussions pertaining to the aesthetics and functionality of the Kyles Lane Roundabouts. Several members of Council drove to Carmel Indiana to look at the roundabout to see how it looked and operated. They reached out to the Mayor in Carmel to get some additional information and video. We have not received video as the date of the meeting. Councilwoman Witt compiled a summary report of the visit and Council agrees with Ms. Witt’s summary report. Council is trying to get some feedback from the City of Carmel, Indiana. Mayor would like to forward Ms. Witt’s summary to KYTC – D6 for review as soon as possible. Councilman Weber commented about a list of items that the Council was concerned with to be sent with Ms. Witt’s summary report. Ms. Witt mentioned some traffic light concerns based on what they had seen in Carmel. Council discusses the differences in Carmel, In and the Roundabouts proposed for Kyles Lane.

1st Reading of Ordinance 02-2025 re: Cannabis Licensing & Fees:

City Attorney Brooking reads the first reading of Ordinance 02-2025 aloud. Mayor Hatter explains the Ordinance in more detail. Council discusses some of the details of the ordinance. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Weber made a first to approve. Councilman Collins made a second. Councilman Wall brings up some issues in Cincinnati in re the state of Ohio coming in to try to take the local fees. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

CAO Jill Cain Bailey would like to amend the agenda to add an executive session after the council meeting. Councilman Weber made a motion to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to the end of the Meeting. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

FW Fire Department & Police Department 2024 Annual Report Presentations:

In 2024, Council and staff started to work with the Fire and Police departments to create annual reports for each department. Mayor Hatter stated that the reports will be an invaluable resource to the residents to understand how their money is being spent and the activity level with each department. Chief Schewe goes over his report and highlights some of the main points in the report; some being the number of runs the department had in 2024, new hires, promotions within the department, service calls, amount of prescription drugs that have been dropped off in our collection bin (collected 163lbs-more was collected but that amount was given to be incinerated-some items collected can't be incinerated). Mayor Hatter lets everyone know of the convenience and positive impact the disposal bin has on the community and advises to check out the information on the City's website.

Chief Colwell presents his 1st annual report while highlighting areas of the department such as staffing changes and promotions within the Police department, departures, new hires, community events, i.e. KinderCare/St. Agnes 1st responder drill, Trunk or Treat @ Fort Wright Elem, Assisted with relief efforts in Old Fort, NC, Ft. Wright Elem cram the Cruiser -2 events. Planning on adding a few more community events in 2025. Total training hours for 13 officers totaled 680 hours 2024. Det. Mike Gross is very involved in the community with following up on crimes and residents being victims of crimes. Chief Colwell goes over the number of calls recvd. 2024 Dispatched calls-6,474. Chief Colwell goes over some new equipment that the department has acquired. He introduces the new dispatch portal/call monitoring system in the Officer Patrol room.

2025 Pavement Project Bid Results Review & Project Award Update:

Mayor Hatter-There are 3 separate parts to this project, labeled as Part A, Part B & Part C. The engineer's total estimate for all 3 parts was \$774,000.44. We received 3 bids in total from Riegler Blacktop, Eaton Asphalt & Queen City Blacktop. Riegler came in the lowest at \$649,342.25. Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the bid of Riegler Blacktop. A clarification was made in re the terminology between resurfacing and reconstructing. Councilman Wall asks the City Attorney on his responsibility of abstaining to vote. Councilwoman Witt made a first. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Weber directs a question to CAO Bailey in re doing anymore joint sealing this coming year. Mayor Hatter commends the Public Works dept for their hard work.

Waste Hauling & Recycling Services:

CAO Bailey presents the information on the Rumpke waste hauling contract. Waste hauling went to bid in 2019, with two 2-year renewal options and we've exercised both of those options, and it is now time to put it out for bid again. She explains the current fees and costs and asks if anyone has any comments. She mentions the current starting time – 7am, but there is no penalty for starting early. Mayor states that he does occasionally get complaints about starting earlier than 7am. They discussed any complaints received from residents about Rumpke. Councilman Weber. Should a collection be added to the Fort Wright Civic Club. Possibly getting rid of the items that are at the "Museum Property" (Port O Lets & Hand sanitizers). Keep the option of providing port o lets for City events. What cans can residents use? Should they be provided free? Councilwoman Witt would like to see the green recycling bin be used more as opposed to the red bins due to the recyclables being blown around the neighborhoods. Jill has the information she needs and will move forward with bidding process.

1st Reading – Ordinance 03-2025 re: Verizon Franchise Renewal:

City Attorney Brooking explains the Ordinance. Current Franchise is for 5 years and expires this year. The ordinance 03-2025 is to approve the extension of the Verizon Franchise agreement. Attorney Brooking reads the 1st reading of the ordinance aloud. Mayor Hatter explains the terminology "franchise" as it relates to the ordinance. No further comments. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve Ordinance 03-2025. Councilman Wall makes a first, Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

Roof Replacement – City Hall:

Roof has not been replaced since 2008 when it was damaged in a storm. PW Director, Jeff Bethell feels the roof is need of repair. Jeff received a bid from Ray St. Clair Roofing of \$68,987.00. Project was discussed in 2024 and Arpa Funds were being planned to be used. Items to be done – Replace Shingles, full roof tear off and replacement. Councilwoman Witt

asks if any other bids were received, CAO stated that PW Director Bethell attempted to get another bid, but that company did not follow up. Councilman Collins asks if an official bid process needs to take place. CAO Bailey stated that it does need to be formally bid out, since it's over \$50,000. This is not an emergency situation and formal bid process will be followed.

Building Security Upgrades:

Mayor Hatter has been pushing for building security upgrades. He explains how hackers can obtain access through camera systems. CAO Bailey explains what needs to be replaced. We received a bid from a couple different companies. We want to replace the existing camera system that does not meet Homeland Security requirements. H & B is the system provider with a quote of \$25,025. Also received quote for fire monitoring at City Hall (\$400/year) and adding fire monitoring at the PW garage (\$9,100). Councilman Weber asks about the requirement for smoke detectors in the heat/cold air returns in the building. Chief Schewe states that was not a requirement at the time the building was built. Proposing to replace the camera system and would like to move forward on the that as soon as possible. Councilman Weber asks about the possibility of having motion detected cameras. CAO Bailey stated that with the extensive traffic flow in our parking lot, that would not be viable option. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the bid from H & B Systems. Councilman Wall asks if we have cameras at SHCC. CAO adds that we do have system, but it is not 100% ideal. Its in place to monitor activity on the roof. It is brought up that with the private parties being held at SHCC, it might not be ideal to have a camera monitoring system. Councilman Collins made a first motion to approve. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

City Building & Public Works Fire Monitoring:

H & B Systems bid \$780 total. Add system in Public Works Building (\$9,100)
Mayor hatter asks for any objections. None stated. Councilman Collins made a first.
Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Absent	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION CARRIED

Dixie Highway/Christ Hospital Sidewalk Extension Project (OKI Grant):

City of Fort Wright was approved by OKI for a grant for sidewalk expansion by Christ Hospital on Dixie Hwy, getting rid of the guardrail for aesthetic purposes and connecting residents neighborhoods to the bus stop for public transportation and schools. We were approved for \$679,932 in Federal Transportation Alternative Funds, but does require a 40% match, which would be approximately \$274,000 would be our match for the project. The program plan is as follows – Design 2025, Right of Way/Utilities 2026, Construction 2028. CAO Bailey would like acknowledgement from council about our contribution in the amount of \$274,000 being spent. Council discusses where the sidewalk ends on Dixie Hwy approaching Ft. Mitchell. Question was brought up in re: to the costs of project. If the amount goes up by 2028, are we locked in at the current price? Will we have to pay more? Council asks what time frame to make a decision before the grant is given to someone else. CAO Bailey is going to refer to our engineer consultants to address some of these questions and will bring the discussion back to council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Did not meet tonight

Community Improvement Committee:

Met tonight, planning to discuss some topics at the next Caucus meeting – abandoned properties in the city, and next steps toward and considering doing some murals and alternative ideas.

CAO REPORT:

Submission of Financial Disclosure Form Deadline is April 15th, please provide those as soon as possible. Caucus meetings will resume in March.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION – Kerrie Holland

Sent out 55 delinquent tax bills in February down from 73 in January. Still processing tax payments as they slowly come in. 6 months probationary period ended on January 29th.

FIANANCE – Nyoka Johnson

Started Excel online course. 6-month probationary period ended on February 5th. Working on BOA continuing education hours. CAO Bailey added that Nyoka will be working on transition of SAGE 50 accounting software project

FIRE DEPT – Chief Schewe

Tuesday, March 3, 2025 9am-2pm – blood drive through Red Cross
Thanks to Micheala Terry-Snead for her time here.

POLICE DEPT – Chief Colwell

Traffic issues on Lorup and Amsterdam – successfully addressed. 27 traffic stops; continue to be visible. One officer on light duty assisting with admin duties and Det. Gross. Moving speed trailer around-check to see how it operates in the cold weather.

PUBLIC WORKS – Jeff Bethell

Jeff was not present at meeting due to snow removal efforts. Mayor sent his appreciation for the Public Works team.

City Attorney Brooking

City Council approved the MO to sell real estate. Delivered check from proceeds of sale _ \$6,000.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's:

Sgt. Millay, Officer Wallace, Officer Keller, Officer Getz,

Motion was made by Councilman Wall to proceed in Executive Session. Councilman Collins made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln YES

Mr. Jason Collins YES

Mr. Scott Wall YES

Mr. Jay Weber YES

Mr. Bernie Wessels Absent

Ms. Margie Witt YES

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting officially Adjourned for Executive Session at 7:58p.m

Next Council Meeting is set for March 5, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk