



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwright.com | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Council 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	Present
Councilman Collins	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Absent
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell
Finance Clerk Kelly Perry

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. 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

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. 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

Mayor Hatter requested a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion about opioid settlement funds. Councilwoman Witt made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilman Weber 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mobile Command Vehicle 100 User Agreement with City of Florence – Mayor Hatter reintroduced this topic, saying the mobile command vehicle that can be used for disasters or large-scale events is shared across multiple municipalities in Northern Kentucky but owned and maintained by the City of Florence. Mr. Thiessen said the agreement has been reviewed by the City's insurance carrier and the City is sufficiently insured to cover the usage of the vehicle. He also said the Police and Fire departments have policies to cover the drivers and those using the equipment.

Councilman Weber made a motion to authorize Mayor Hatter to sign the Mobile Command Vehicle Use Agreement with the City of Florence. Councilman Abeln 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

NEW BUSINESS

Opioid Settlements – Mr. Thiessen said Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron is pursuing five additional settlements with developers and manufacturers of opioid products. He said the City has already participated in settlements with some manufacturers and received settlements. Mr. Thiessen said the City has spent nothing on legal or litigation costs to handle these suits.

Mayor Hatter thanked Attorney General Cameron for his work on these settlements but said this is not just free money the City has received, or will receive from these additional settlements. He said the payments allow the City to recoup some of the costs associated with the Police and Fire departments fighting this issue in our community.

Councilman Weber made a motion to authorize Mayor Hatter to sign settlement participation agreement forms with Allergan, CVS, Teva, Walgreens, and Walmart. 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

Mayor Hatter advised he does not know how much the City stands to receive, but updates will be provided.

Resolution 04-2023 Supporting HB 312 – Certificate of Need Exemption – Mayor Hatter said he felt the need to support Christ Hospital, as an organization that has chosen to be in Fort Wright, in addressing the Certificate of Need issue in Northern Kentucky. Mr. Theissen reviewed Kentucky House Bill 312, saying this bill amend KRS 216B.020 to include the following statement: A certificate of need shall not be required to establish any health service in any group of three (3) contiguous counties if each county borders another state and each county has a population of ninety thousand (90,000) or more according to the most recent federal decennial census. He added that this takes the need for a certificate of need out of the state’s purview to allow another hospital entity to come into Northern Kentucky.

Mayor Hatter said this resolution tells legislators that the City of Fort Wright is in favor of this bill, and he will begin sharing it if passed by Council.

Councilman Wall advised he will abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve Resolution 04-2023, a Resolution of the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky, supporting House Bill 312 before the Kentucky Legislature to exempt any group of three contiguous counties from obtaining a certificate of need for health services if each county borders another state and each county has a population of 90,000 or more according to the most recent federal decennial census.

Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Abstain
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Municipal Order 01-2023 Disposal of Surplus Property – Mr. Theissen read Municipal Order 01-2023, an order declaring surplus property and authorizing disposal of such property by destruction and/or recycling. He said this is to declare Councilman Weber’s old laptop as surplus and allow it to be recycled.

Councilman Wall made a motion to approve Municipal Order 01-2023. Councilman Abeln 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

COFW Property Deeds – Mr. Theissen said there was a minor change needed on two lots in the City, one off Morris Road and Volunteer Park. He said when the City of Fort Wright and City of Lookout Heights merged the deeds were not changed over for these properties that had been owned by Lookout Heights. Mr. Theissen said quit claim deeds would be filed to switch the names over and clear up the titles.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to authorize Mayor Hatter to sign the quit claim deeds for PIDN 027-40-10-019.00 near Morris Road, PIDN 027-40-11-008.00 near Morris Road, and 041-20-00-235.01 on Park Road transferring the names on the titles from City of Lookout Heights to City of Fort Wright. Councilwoman Witt 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

Acting Mayor Pro-Tem Assignment – Mayor Hatter said previously when he had to be late or absent from a Council meeting former Councilman Adam Feinauer would step in, and he has discussed this option with Councilman Wall as the senior Councilperson. Mr. Theissen advised Council that the Mayor cannot delegate responsibilities, including presiding over Council meetings, so as to respect the wishes of the voters who selected him as Mayor. He advised Council that they can select the person they wish to preside, but the Mayor cannot select this person ahead of time.

Mayor Hatter provided an update on state legislature, saying he and Councilwoman Witt attended KLC's City Night in Frankfort. He said they were able to meet many representatives from the House, but very few senators were in attendance. He discussed House Bill 50 and Senate Bill 50 with everyone he spoke to, and they all advised him they would be voting against the measures. Mayor Hatter thanked everyone for helping spread the word about these two pieces of legislation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Councilman Weber – Councilman Weber said they were not able to have a meeting. He also gave an update on national inflation.

Community Improvement Committee – Councilwoman Witt – Councilwoman Witt said the Committee has established three priorities: the installation of the gateway signage; replacing benches and trashcans around the City; and notification to the weekly ad distribution company about the updates to the City's nuisance code.

Councilwoman Witt also discussed the community volunteers who have stepped up to collect litter from major routes in the City. She said the volunteers, who include Jason Worms, Karen Grimes, Gary & Debbie Gluth, and Donna Wessels, were provided with safety gear, garbage grabbers, and trash bags. She thanked them each for their hard work, saying she is impressed with how good their areas and the City look, and she hopes that the cleanliness will detract people from littering.

Councilwoman Witt reminded residents of the 10th annual City Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. She asked volunteers to meet at the City Building to grab gear and then return for lunch and t shirts at the end. She asked interested volunteers to contact her or Public Works Director Jeff Bethell to sign up.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey was not in attendance.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration – Ms. Russell provided an update on passport acceptance appointments.

Finance – Ms. Perry advised 97.97% of real property taxes and 97% of tangible property taxes have been collected to date. Mayor Hatter thanked the residents and businesses that have paid their taxes on time.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe advised the date currently being advertised for the Easter Bunny parade will be changing and to look for the new date soon.

Police Department – Chief Butler reminded residents to be careful of walkers, bikers, and runners as the weather changes and more people are outside. He also reminded residents of the department's vacation check program.

Public Works Department – Mr. Bethell said his department has been taking advantage of the good weather by picking up 33 bags of trash and replacing and repairing sidewalks.

Mr. Bethell said CT Consultants is working on the design plan for Fort Henry construction and said they will have exact project limits once that is ready. He said the Northern Kentucky Water District will be replacing water mains in May and June and Duke Energy will do gas line work in April, with SD1 doing spot repairs throughout. He said bid advertising will be on April 6th and bid opening will be April 20th.

There was discussion about previous work done by Precision Concrete on the sidewalks in the City. Mr. Bethell said they did a lot of work and his department is now working through reevaluating and repairing as their work ages. Mayor Hatter asked residents to contact the City if they see potholes or sidewalk issues that need to be addressed.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Theissen had no report.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter said another newsletter will be coming soon.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no Council comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilwoman Witt 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 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell, City Clerk