



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 2, 2022 – 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 Feinauer	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Present
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Captain Jonathan Colwell
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Chris Schaffer – 5 Park Road – Mr. Schaffer addressed Council regarding Volunteer Park and concerns that the feedback expressed by his wife, Krista, in October were not heard. He said he was concerned that the colored playsets that were chosen will not blend well with the area surroundings or provide sufficient play areas for children in the 5 to 12 age range. He also expressed concern that the oak trees in the area would be taken down.

Mr. Bethell addressed the oak trees, saying the City had an arborist look at the trees and there is one that is recommended for removal because it is splitting and could cause damage to people or property if it came down. Mayor Hatter agreed that the tree could be replaced, and Councilwoman Witt said that was an easy thing to review and would be supported.

Ms. Bailey advised that the existing wooden play structure is over 20 years old and would never be allowed to be built as it is now because of new safety standards. She said the trolley structure will be green, the swing set will be grey, and the larger play structure will be navy blue with red and yellow accent colors.

Dana Baute – 42 Park Road – Ms. Baute also addressed Council regarding Volunteer Park, as well as her concern that their issues were not heard, and email correspondence was not responded to in a timely manner. Mayor Hatter advised that anyone could call or email directly to himself or any Council member at any time if they do not feel like staff are addressing their messages appropriately.

There was discussion about parking issues, with Ms. Baute saying the nearby condominium complex would cause parking issues for the residents near Volunteer Park. Ms. Bailey advised the residents of those homes would not be using the streets near the park for parking and this Park was never intended to be a destination park because of the neighborhood parking concerns. Councilwoman Witt said the City is considering doing a destination-type of play structure at Battery Hooper Park, which can handle additional traffic.

Councilman Wessels said that a lot of money is being spent on Volunteer Park and the City has given residents many opportunities to express their thoughts. He said Council did review the suggestions Ms. Schaffer and other residents brought to them in the fall and realized it would be too expensive to do what they wanted. Ms. Bailey said the intent of every individual on Council and staff is to improve the value of their neighborhood and make it useful for every resident in that area, and they believe the selection made was appropriate and nice for the neighborhood.

Steve Myers – 1596 St. Anthony Circle – Mr. Myers addressed Council regarding the left turn from Kyles Lane onto St. Anthony Circle, saying it is becoming a dangerous situation. Captain Colwell said the Police Department has addressed that in the past with targeted monitoring, but an officer cannot be there all the time. He suggested assigning an officer to the area for more monitoring. Captain Colwell agreed that something physical needs to be in place, such as the sticks on Dixie Highway, to direct traffic better.

Mayor Hatter said Kyles Lane is a state route and they control the flow. He suggested Mr. Myers and any other concerned residents email him directly with their concerns so he can forward the messages directly to the state.

Mr. Myers also asked for the Police Department to address the motorcycles on Marcella Drive that do not have mufflers and are causing a noise issue. Mayor Hatter suggested calling 9-1-1 to have an officer respond as soon as possible when the noise is occurring.

Mr. Myers brought up the lighting issue from the Infiniti dealership. Ms. Bailey said she will reach out to the new owners to speak with them. Mayor Hatter asked Mr. Theissen to review the City's Ordinances. Mr. Myers said he is concerned about lighting coming from the new car dealership and Ms. Bailey said they will be required to submit a photometric plan during the planning process for approval, but they are still in the very early stages on conceptual planning for permitting.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Axon Body & Dash Camera Purchase (Police Department) – Ms. Bailey reminded Council that this purchase was discussed at a previous Caucus Meeting, and it is now on the agenda for purchasing approval. She said because of ARPA and CARES Act funding, the funds for this purchase were freed up in the General Fund and a budget amendment will be submitted to incorporate the purchase.

Mayor Hatter said the Police Department already has body and dash cameras and this will be an upgrade and replacement for an aging system. He said this is extremely important for the protection of the police officers and those they encounter. Captain Colwell added that the existing system the department uses is almost out of commission and the company that made the system does not exist any longer. Councilman Wessels asked that the camera system be added to the capital improvement plan for review in five years.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the purchase of the Axon Body & Dash Camera system. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Jiffy Lube Development – Proposed Zone Change (Ken White, DLZ) – Mr. Theissen advised Council that they will hear about this request again once it comes back from the Kenton County Planning Commission (KCPC) and they cannot act tonight on any information given. He recommended they ask questions to learn about the request but advised Council to not make any favorable or unfavorable comments as that could remove them from voting when it comes back from KCPC.

Ken White, DLZ Project Manager, addressed Council on behalf of Jiffy Lube. He said the company is expanding its presence in Greater Cincinnati and has identified a parcel on Madison Pike (3385 Madison Pike) to build a store. He said the request for rezoning goes before KCPC on Thursday, March 3rd, to change the parcel from Community Commercial (CC) to Highway Oriented Commercial (HOC).

Mr. White said Jiffy Lube is a light automotive service establishment, offering services like oil and fluid changes, belt changes, and tire rotation. He said all business is conducted inside service bays. Mr. White showed elevation renderings with four service bays and office and public space. He said normal operating hours are 8:00 AM to 6:00 or 7:00 PM and they service 30-35 customers a day.

Mr. White said there will not be light poles on site, only building lighting, unless specifically requested by the jurisdiction. He said they will be reducing site access to one drive off Madison Pike and connecting to the Arby's and Speedway access drive. He also said Kenton County has asked that they extend sidewalks. Mr. White said there will be an enclosed trash space with gate and 14 parking spaces behind the building. He said they are also going to add some trees and shrubs along Madison Pike. Mr. White said there is a favorable recommendation at this time from KCPC.

Councilman Weber asked about peak traffic and Mr. White said they service cars all day long, with two bays reserved for quick turnover work and two for longer duration service. Councilman Wessels asked Ms. Bailey to send to Council the uses for the current zone. Ms. Bailey advised Council that KCPC will make their recommendation and send it back to Council for a final decision.

Equipment Replacement – 1987 John Deere Backhoe – Mr. Bethell said the current backhoe is showing its age and with extreme lead times and increasing costs he is recommending purchasing a new backhoe for the Public Works Department. He said he reviewed quotes from John Deere, Case, and Caterpillar and spoke with Public Works directors from multiple neighboring cities and is recommending the City purchase a Case 580N two-wheel drive backhoe loader for \$93,086.19. Mr. Bethell said this price includes a 37% discount using the state contract program, and he thinks the price will go up after March 31st when they renegotiate that contract pricing.

Councilman Weber commended Mr. Bethell for the work he put into researching and finding the best piece of equipment for the City. Councilman Wall asked why he picked a two-wheel drive versus the four-wheel drive and Mr. Bethell said the four-wheel drive option was an additional \$3,000. After discussion, it was agreed that purchasing the four-wheel drive backhoe was worth the additional cost.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the Mayor enter into an agreement for purchasing the Case 580N Backhoe Loader with four-wheel drive. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 02-2022 – Code Update (City Hall Address) – Mr. Theissen said he noticed that the address of where a copy of the City's zoning ordinance can be found lists the old City Administration Building address on Park Road. He said this Ordinance will clean up this issue.

Mr. Theissen completed a first reading of Ordinance 02-2022, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending various sections of the City of Fort Wright Code of Ordinances entitled "Zoning" to update outdated language about the City's Zoning Regulations.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 02-2022. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 03-2022 – Zoning Changes re: Family Child Care Home – Mr. Theissen completed a first reading of Ordinance 03-2022, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending various sections of the zoning regulation of the City of Fort Wright to add a definition of Family Child-Care Homes and making them a conditional use in all residential zones as required by KRS 100.8982. Mr. Theissen explained that this change was being required of all cities in the state of Kentucky because of a legislative change and gave background on the change.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 03-2022. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee – Chair Councilman Feinauer – Councilman Feinauer said the Committee met last week and discussed litter abatement. He also said the Committee would like to resurrect the City newsletter via email, and would like to send a postcard to all resident announcing the e-newsletter.

Ms. Bailey said the City currently has about 900 emails registered on its Constant Contact list, which does include staff and media. She said the cost of a postcard would be in the \$1,200 to \$1,500 range and the intent is to send a postcard to every residential home in the City to encourage people to sign up for news and event information. She acknowledged that the open and read rate for City emails is over 50% which is great.

Mayor Hatter said he is in favor of the postcard to grow the email list but has concerns about generating content for a newsletter and not creating extra work for staff. He suggested sending the newsletter quarterly to make sure it has value for residents, so it does not get ignored.

There were discussions about the size of the postcard and possible content. It was agreed that there would be no advertisements or personal or private messages. Mayor Hatter encouraged residents to join the email list by visiting the City's website.

Finance Committee – Chair Councilman Wessels – Councilman Wessels said this afternoon's Committee Meeting was cancelled and the RedTree Investment report is in Councilmember's packets.

Ms. Bailey advised a conditional offer was extended for the Finance Clerk position, pending pre-employment testing, and she is hopeful the new employee will start in the next few weeks. She said she thinks this person will be a great addition to staff and is thankful for Ben Harrison who has been filling in and will be able to train the new hire. Ms. Bailey said she anticipates using Mr. Harrison for some specialized projects in the future as well.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey advised that staff has moved forward with the inspection of South Hills Civic Club to start the renovation process. She said she anticipates receiving the results in the coming days and will share more at the upcoming Caucus Meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – Ms. Russell reported the delinquent tax bill totals for 2021 were as follows: Real Property, \$34,260.38; Waste, \$6,874.54; and Tangible Property, \$4,576.46.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe reported that two of the three grants he has applied for have come back with awards. He said one from the Kentucky Fire Commission for \$3,500 will be used to replace a thermal imaging camera. He said the second grant, for \$11,600, will be used to replace a stair chair on the second ambulance. Chief Schewe said the third grant, which he has not heard about yet, would be for \$8,000 and will be used to purchase a ventilator for the LUCAS-CPR device.

Police Department – Captain Colwell said Officer Mike Gross completed his field training quickly and is on the road doing a great job. Mayor Hatter commented on the outpouring of support and congratulations Officer Gross received when his hiring was posted to social media.

Public Works Department – Mr. Bethell said the 2022 Street Program will go out for bid on March 10th and big opening will be on March 24th, so more information will be reported at the April Council Meeting. He said the streets in the program this year are Barrington Road, Morris Road, Howard Road, Glasgow Court, Glengarry Way, and Tartan Drive. He said there is an alternate option to do Park Road in front of Volunteer Park and Cherokee Drive. Mr. Bethell said the Northern Kentucky Water District will be replacing the water main from Amsterdam Road back to Cherokee Drive while this work is being completed.

Mr. Bethell advised the street program will cost around \$500,000 this year. Ms. Bailey commented that CT Consultants has advised they are seeing an uptick in the cost of projects because of pricing, so it may come in higher than anticipated. She said Council would need to decide to cut part of the project or pay the excess. Mayor Hatter said his opinion is to take care of it using CARES Act or ARPA funding to supplement if necessary.

Legal Counsel – No report.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter acknowledged thank you notes sent to the City commending Police Sergeant Rob Griffin for assisting on two calls and the Public Works Department for their work in the City during recent snow and ice events.

Councilwoman Witt discussed Fort Wright Clean Up Day, to be held on Saturday, April 23rd, from 9:00 to 12:00 PM. She said volunteers will receive free lunch after the event courtesy of SubStation II. She said she is working to involve local businesses and schools in the event and the Banklick Creek Watershed Council will be cleaning out the creek while volunteers work on the City roads.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no Council Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk