



# 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 6, 2024 – 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	Absent
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
- City Attorney Tim Theissen

Councilman Weber made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion and vote on Municipal Order 04-2024. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Andrew Schierberg, Stages Elder Law – Mr. Schierberg addressed Council, saying he represents the owner of 420 General Drive, and asked them to reconsider the foreclosure that the City has brought on the property. He said the owner has been moved into an assisted living facility and would like to maximize the amount of money he can get out of selling the property.

There was discussion of the ongoing situation of code enforcement violations and the history of liens being filed against the property. After discussion, Ms. Bailey advised Mr. Schierberg that this item is on the agenda for discussion during Executive Session and a representative from the City will be in touch once a decision is made.

## APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Abstain	MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilwoman Witt	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Abstain	MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Abstain	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 02-2024 – Revocation of Liquor Licenses** – Ms. Bailey completed the second reading of Ordinance 02-2024, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending the Fort Wright Code of Ordinances Chapter 112 entitled Alcoholic Beverages, Section 112.99, entitled “Penalty” adding a provision authorizing the City to revoke or suspend an alcohol license for non-payment of taxes and other legal violations.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve Ordinance 02-2024. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 01-2024 – Imposing Administrative Holds** – Mr. Theissen completed the second reading of Ordinance 01-2024, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, adding a new section 110.17 to the Business Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Wright imposing an administrative hold on issuance or renewal of any license, permit or other approval if there are unpaid taxes, fines or other violations.

Mr. Theissen explained that this Ordinance gives the City the authority to put a hold on issuing licenses or permits if there are problems with the property or requesting entity regarding taxes, outstanding code violations, etc., ensuring they are in full compliance with other Ordinances.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve Ordinance 01-2024. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

## NEW BUSINESS

**Fort Henry Reconstruction Phase 2 Bid Results – CT Consultants** – Marty Hellmann of CT Consultants presented the results from the February 29<sup>th</sup> bid opening for phase two of the Fort Henry Reconstruction project. He said the project was bid as concrete only to match with the work done in 2023.

Mr. Hellmann said the budget was \$630,000 and the low bid is \$542,245 from TMS Construction. He said CT Consultants has worked with the company in the past, and they have done work in Fort Wright in the past, and they are recommending the City move forward with this bid.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the bid by TMS Construction. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

**City Hall Parking Lot Repair Bid Results – CT Consultants** – Mr. Hellmann presented the results from the February 15<sup>th</sup> bid opening for parking lot repairs and resurfacing at the City Administration Building. He said the engineer's estimate was \$289,310 and the low bid came from Queen City Blacktop for \$309,151. Mr. Hellmann said other engineers have worked with this company and are confident in their qualifications to do the work. He recommended the City award the bid to Queen City Blacktop.

Mayor Hatter asked about the large difference between the engineer's estimate and the low bid. Mr. Hellmann said the biggest difference was on the concrete approaches to the Fire Department bays, as he underestimated the size of the concrete spaces.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the bid by Queen City Blacktop. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilwoman Witt	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

**Municipal Road Aid Participation/Contracts** – Ms. Bailey advised she received an email from the Kentucky Department of Rural and Municipal Aid asking if the City would be interested in participating again. She confirmed the City was interested and was told the contracts would be ready in May. She said this topic will be brought back before Council at that time.

Mayor Hatter told Council he forwarded a spreadsheet to them from Representative Steve Doan regarding MRA funding for Kenton County versus other counties. He said he would be working through the information and will follow up.

**Municipal Order 04-2024 – Disposal of Surplus Property** – Ms. Bailey advised the items for surplus include bookshelves, an old typewriter, and a fire-proof cabinet, all from the Administration Department.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve Municipal Order 04-2024, a Municipal Order of the City Council of the City of Fort Wright in Kenton County, Kentucky, declaring surplus property and authorizing disposal of such property by destruction and/or recycling. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Improvement Committee – Councilwoman Witt** – Councilwoman Witt said the Committee has discussed a long list of items to address and will begin further discussions at their meeting in two weeks. Mayor Hatter requested to add an update to the digital sign and signage near the driveway entrance at the traffic light.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents of the prescription drug disposal box in the lobby, saying the City has destroyed approximately 35 pounds of old medicine via the box.

**Finance Committee – Councilman Weber** – Councilman Weber said they met with Joe Violand of RedTree Investments because a lot of items are coming due soon and the City anticipates receiving about \$700,000 in revenue. He proposed placing half of that into a one-year investment with a yield of 4.95% and the other half into an 18-month investment at 4.75%, with both rates locked.

Councilman Weber also advised that the City expects an additional \$900,000 in investment income to be available over the coming six months – \$150,000 on April 15; \$300,000 in July; \$349,000 in August; and \$100,000 in September. He said they will present Council with the best options for those funds as they become available.

Councilmembers all concurred on Councilman Weber’s proposals for the investment funding.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that the funds are not all with the same product or in the same bank, as the City is trying to be extremely cautious while taking advantage of the reserves available. Ms. Bailey added the Finance Committee and City Officials all follow the City’s Investment Policy, which states funds must be secured and collateralized and that all decisions are bound by state laws.

### **CAO REPORT**

Ms. Bailey thanked Finance Clerk Kelly Perry and the department heads for their hard work on the abatement of OSHA suggestions. She said this became a much larger project than anticipated but they did very well.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Administration** – Ms. Russell advised a delinquent tax bill of over \$20,000 was paid this afternoon, bringing the amount owed for 2023 taxes to just under \$3,100.

**Finance** – Ms. Perry was not present.

**Fire/ALS Department** – Chief Schewe welcomed new part-time Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Ruehl to the department, saying he is a full-time employee at Erlanger.

Chief Schewe provided an update on the property the Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association is acquiring just south of the Gateway training center on Madison Pike, saying there is an easement from 1970 that needs to be cleared and then everything will be on track. There was discussion regarding the use of the Robke Bridge, which leads to the Gateway campus. Chief Schewe advised the fire equipment will be using a different access point via Eaton Asphalt's property.

**Police Department** – Chief Butler thanked the multiple agencies that assisted the Fort Wright Police Department on the recent discovery of skeletal remains, including Kenton County Police and their Evidence Collections and K9 units, as well as Erlanger Police Department's K9 teams.

**Public Works Department** – Mr. Bethell said Eaton Asphalt has begun work at Kyles Lane and Wrights Summit Parkway, but the weather has caused delays. He added there will be a bid announcement going out next week for the George Huser Sidewalk Project.

**Legal Counsel** – Mr. Theissen announced his retirement as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. He thanked Mayor Hatter, Council, and City staff for their work during his time as City Attorney.

Mayor Hatter thanked Mr. Theissen for his work and the enormous progress he made on many projects for the City, saying he was an unbelievable asset to the team. He added that he intends to move quickly with the appointment of a new City Attorney and would like them to work with Mr. Theissen to transition until his last day.

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's** – Mayor Hatter read from thank you notes to the Police Department and to City Council. He also congratulated the Fire Department on the approval of a grant for personal protective equipment worth approximately \$3,000.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Witt – announced Clean Up Day will be Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with details to come soon.

Mayor Hatter welcomed back Councilman Weber after an extended illness. He also congratulated Councilman Wall on the birth of his first grandchild.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session under KRS 61.810(1)(b), deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency, but only when publicity would be likely to affect the value of a specific piece of property to be acquired for public use or sold by a public agency, and KRS 61.810(1)(c), discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilwoman Witt	Yes
Councilman Abeln	Yes

