



City of Fort Wright

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:02 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	Absent
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
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Hatter requested to amend the agenda to include discussion about an upcoming Executive Order and state annexation legislation update. Councilwoman Witt made a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Fort Henry Reconstruction – Martin Hellmann, Project Manager with CT Consultants, presented two options for the Fort Henry Reconstruction project. He said the project limits for Option One would be from Pickett Drive to existing concrete section near 432 Fort Henry Drive with a preliminary cost of \$850,000, then General Drive to Pickett Drive and the existing concrete section to Amsterdam Road at an estimated cost of \$550,000. Mr.

Hellman said Option Two would split the project into two equal cost projects of \$700,000 each, but three sections of work.

After discussion on costs and project limitations for bidding contractors, Council verbally agreed to move forward with Option One.

Bench & Trash Can Replacement Program – Ms. Bailey said an aim of the Community Improvement Committee was to replace the benches and trashcans around the community to be cohesive with the gateway signage and other beautification efforts. Ms. Bailey proposed a Community Bench Program, allowing the 15 benches to be purchased for \$2,500 each, and the buyer could choose what inscription would be placed on a small plaque on the bench.

There was also discussion about replacing the TANK bus stops in the community. Ms. Bailey said there are five throughout the City and TANK has said they are replacing only 15 to 20 each year and there is the potential for advertisements on their shelters. She said if the City replaces them, the City has the ability to control and customize the look to match the benches, cans, and signage.

There were no verbal objections to moving forward with the Community Bench Program. Ms. Bailey advised she would work on getting more information about bus stops.

CARES & ARPA Fund Update – Ms. Bailey reviewed tracking information for the funds the City has received. She said the CARES Funding freed up \$584,000 and to-date \$48,800 remains available in that fund. She then advised that the City has not spent any ARPA funding, so the full \$1.5 million is available, with no restrictions.

There was discussion on various uses for the funding. It was decided that each department head would compile a “wish list” for equipment and other items they would like to purchase. The street program was also discussed, as the 2.5 year review period is coming up and there may be opportunities to spend the funds there.

Ms. Bailey advised the gateway signage will be installed the week of March 27th.

Executive Order – Mayor Hatter said there was a long discussion at the January Mayor’s Group meeting about issues with the last election, including polling locations, lack of workers, and lines. He said Gabe Summe, Kenton County Clerk, has been working with the Board of Elections to get more locations, but that would require additional workers. Mayor Hatter said it was proposed that cities offer a paid day off to employees who work the polls on Election Days. He said he would like to see this for Fort Wright. After discussion, Mayor Hatter said this matter would be on the agenda at the next Council Meeting.

Annexation Update – Mayor Hatter provided an update on the state annexation legislation that was proposed by the Kentucky Association of Counties that would have placed a moratorium on any annexations through 2025 regardless if both parties agreed. He said Kentucky League of Cities has been pushing firmly against this as it makes the cities subservient to the counties and there is a substantial amount of opposition from municipal

leaders. Mayor Hatter read through an email from JD Chaney, Executive Director/CEO of KLC, that was sent Wednesday late afternoon advising a compromise has been met between KACo and KLC.

Mayor Hatter also thanked Councilmembers for their support and efforts to oppose House Bill 50 and Senate Bill 50, saying it appears it will not be moving further in the legislative process.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Weber – He requested a weekly report from Republic Bank that shows where the Bank’s deposits are coming from and if they’re going up or down. He said that if the deposits start going down the City will need to reevaluate its position. There was discussion about collateralization of funding, for which the City already has. Ms. Bailey advised she receives daily reports from Republic Bank about those accounts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hatter requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session under KRS 61.810(1)(c), discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. A motion was made by Councilman Wall. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

The Caucus Meeting was reopened to the public at 8:15 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Collins made a second. All voting in favor.

The Caucus Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:


Maura Russell, City Clerk