

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT. KENTUCKY CAUCUS MEETING

MARCH 16, 2011 – 6:00PM

Mayor Nienaber called the meeting to order at 6:02PM with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Joe Averdick, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Adam Feinauer and Mr. Bernie Wessels. Also in attendance were City Administrator Gary Huff, City Attorney Pete Summe, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods. Mr. Todd McMurtry was unavailable for this meeting.

Wal-Mart – Update of Colors & Signs

Mr. Ryan Shrimpun of WD Partners, who is representing Wal-Mart in their upgrading of their stores with new signage, roof and trim colors. Council reviewed the new colors and drawings of the signs that they are proposing and small addition of 70 square feet to the environmental cage in the tire and lube area. After some discussion, Council agreed that the colors and addition were acceptable, but were concerned with the proposed sign on Highland Pike. They thought that the illuminated blue sign with white lettering might be too bright when it was dark outside and maybe preferred the white cut out lettering. Everything brought before Council at this meeting was only for discussion to get input from both sides.

This will be brought back before Council at the regular Council meeting in April.

Draft of Amended 2010-2011 Budget

Mr. Huff advised that the numbers were taken from the audit and that we are using the accrual method recommended by the auditor which will raise our balances. The carryover balance is higher than anticipated because of the \$120,000.00 received from Sanitation District No.1 for engineering and piping cost for the Vidot Ct./St. Agnes Circle project. That was the last street project done and no other money was spent from the Municipal Road Aid Fund.

All department heads have kept cost at a minimum where possible and changing two full time positions to part time was also cost saving. This will be brought back at the April meeting.

Draft of 2011-2012 Budget

Mr. Huff advised there have been numerous meetings with the Finance committee to discuss the upcoming budget. All line items were at zero, except for the ones that were personnel related. Department Heads were included in the meetings that had to do with their department and were given the opportunity to give dollar amounts and reasons for that amount.

Mayor Nienaber advised that this meeting tonight was the opportunity to discuss tax increases, raises etc. The flexibility to not take the 4% increase in property taxes is gone with the failing of last year's defeat of the tax for new and repairing of city streets. Discussion followed concerning employee raises and how they are distributed. Mayor Nienaber stated that it is Council's job to approve an amount for the raises, but Mr. Huff and the department heads to decide on the amount of their employees.

The cost of the MDT's in the Police Department will still be in the budget for the next three years. There are meetings concerning the dispatch situation coming up, one for Erlanger dispatch and the other will be the three county joint dispatch.

Chief Kreinest advised that there were some ideas that we could put in place to have more revenue coming in. Council advised him to make up a list and bring back to them.

Chief Schewe stated that he has been using more part time employees to fill in the time since he had lost some volunteer members that were on the incentive program. We have had good luck with the part time employees that we have in the Fire Department, and their schedules have been flexible enough to fill in when needed.

The ALS program is still being developed and Mr. Huff advised that he had a discussion with Ludlow regarding implementing this plan and also has a meeting set up with Fort Mitchell.

Public Works budget is self explanatory, the residential waste fee expense was a pass through to the residents and we do have extra salt that was being stored for future use.

Mr. Huff advised we will make an extra \$100,000.00 payment on the city building to pay down that debt. We need some structural repairs on the building and inside cosmetic repairs. We are waiting for a set of original plans and a report from the engineer that looked at the problems. We are looking at different options for the Storer property. In the next five years we hope the City can be debt free.

Municipal Road Aid Fund

We are proposing \$250,000.00 to be used strictly for milling, paving, crack sealing and preventative maintenance of some of the worst streets that are in the City.

Capital Fund

There are two furnaces that we have not been replaced and also the structural fix of the building.

Chief Kreinest had given the Finance Committee an analysis of the two oldest police vehicles, the repair and fuel usage cost, to see if they need to be replaced.

A list was given to Mr. Hatter of the computer needs for the City. This will be brought to the Finance Committee for review.

TIF Fund

The fund could be used to attract new businesses, maintenance on Valley Plaza Parkway or other areas of this TIF District.

Asset Forfeiture Fund

Chief Kreinest advised that they plan to spend \$6000.00 this year on upgrading the video system for the building. It was recommended not to spend anything next year to have this fund accumulate.

Fire/EMS Fund

This is the income from ambulance services to Fort Wright, Park Hills and Kenton Vale.

Park & Recreation Fund

Money placed in the budget for the City's 70th Year Anniversary and we would like to combine an outing with the picnic held at the park.

The museum will need to have \$10,000.00 for funding by July 1, 2011 in order to continue operating.

Mayor Nienaber and Mr. Huff met with the Garden Club recently and Mr. Huff stated that he would like Council to consider funding them to beautify the City with plants in different locations. They care for the gardens around the City Building and at Kyles Lands and Dixie Highway. They are asking for suggestions for locations to plant.

Mayor Nienaber advised that he thought everyone did a very good job on the budget planning and had addressed every situation.

There will be a Finance Committee meeting on March 24th at 7:30AM to finalize the budget and have it on the agenda in April and again in May to finalize.

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Hatter to adjourn the meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Nienaber Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joyce Woods", written in a cursive style.

Joyce Woods, City Clerk