



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 20, 2024 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus 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	Present
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 Attorney Tim Theissen
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments or guests.

Councilman Weber made a motion to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session under KRS 61.810(1)(f), discussions or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's, member's, or student's right to a public hearing if requested. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Accessory Uses in Zoning Code (Shipping Containers) – Rob Himes, PDS – Mr. Himes addressed Council regarding recent issues he has seen around Kenton County regarding shipping containers and said Fort Wright's zoning ordinances do not currently address or regulate these items. Mr. Himes quoted the Fort Wright Zoning Ordinance definition for Accessory Building, saying it is "a 'customary accessory building or use' is one which: a)

is subordinate to and serves the principal building or principal use; b) is subordinate in area, extent, or purpose to the principal building or principal use served; c) contributes to the comfort, convenience, or necessity of occupants of the principal building or principal use served; and d) is located on the same lot as the principal building or principal use served, with the single exception of such accessory off-street parking facilities as are permitted to locate elsewhere than on the same lot with the building or use served.”

There was discussion on which zones permissions would apply to if implemented, including residential or commercial. Additional discussion occurred about pods and their relation to shipping containers. Mr. Bethell said pods are allowed for 16 days, two times a year on an improved surface.

Mayor Hatter asked the Community Improvement Committee to review three usage options with shipping containers, temporary storage, residential, and commercial, and report back to Council with their recommendations.

Replacement of Speed Monitoring Devices (Speed Trailer) - Mayor Hatter introduced this topic, saying the City has existing speed monitoring devices giving concrete data on speed, but the monitors currently in use are battery-powered and need to be recharged regularly.

Chief Butler agreed and said the Police Department has reviewed several options to allow portability and longevity with battery life. He said the best option would be a trailer-style speed monitor, which could be easily portable around the City and would be solar powered to avoid battery replacement issues. He suggested purchasing one at approximately \$8,000 which would replace an existing monitor that is over seven years old and at the end of its lifespan.

There was discussion among the Mayor and Council on purchasing multiple speed monitor trailers or other types of mounted speed monitoring devices. It was determined that one trailer and two mounted devices would be purchased, with an option to purchase an additional trailer monitor in a few more months.

Review of Bids for Replacement of Windows at City Hall – Ms. Bailey said the windows at City Hall are 34 years old and original to the building. She asked Chief Schewe to review bids.

Chief Schewe presented three bids to Council for slider-style and casement-style, which is what is currently in place. He said the Anderson bid was \$36,440 for slider and \$49,720 for casement; Pella was \$29,325 for slider and \$40,825 for casement; and Marvin was \$41,917.73 for slider and \$61,351.81 for casement-style. Chief Schewe said all three brands use the same glass manufacturer, but the frames are different.

It was confirmed there was no need to put this out for bid because of the cost, so Mayor Hatter advised this decision will come back before Council at the next legislative meeting for a vote.

Budget Discussions Related to Elected/Appointed Official Stipends – Councilman Collins said he requested this be brought up for discussion to review the Mayor’s compensation, as he feels Mayor Hatter should receive more than essentially \$1.00 per resident. Ms. Bailey presented the salary survey results showing the comparison of Fort Wright’s Mayor and Council salaries compared with other neighboring cities.

There was discussion around statutory requirements on changing the salaries, including the timeline that would need to be in place. Mayor Hatter said he appreciates the sentiment but wishes to table this discussion.

After further discussion, Council agreed to increase the pay of the Board of Adjustment members to \$250 each per year and to compensate the City's appointment to the Joint Code Enforcement Board \$250 per year, which will come up for vote at the next Council Meeting.

Lorup Water Drainage Issues – Mr. Bethell reviewed the issues of water drainage at 21 Lorup Avenue, saying there was repaving completed in 2016 which brought the road height almost completely level with the curb height. He said this is causing water to run down in between 21 Lorup and 23 Lorup, along Kentucky Walk.

Mr. Bethell said he has reviewed the issue with Marty Hellmann of CT Consultants, and it has been recommended to raise the sidewalk and make adjustments to the driveway, which would cost \$23,732.50. After discussion, Council agreed to bring this back to the next Council Meeting for a vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session under KRS 61.810(1)(f), discussions or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's, member's, or student's right to a public hearing if requested. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:38 PM.

The Caucus Meeting was reopened to the public at 8:14 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

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

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell, City Clerk