



# City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | [www.fortwrightky.gov](http://www.fortwrightky.gov) | 859.331.1700

## City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Minutes

Wednesday – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

6:00 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

The City Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Mayor Hatter and led the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence. City Clerk Kerrie Holland called the roll.

Mr. Collins	Present
Ms. Ross	Present
Mr. Wall	Present
Mr. Weber	Present
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Present

Also present were Mayor Dave Hatter, City Administrator Jill Cain Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Chief Jonathan Colwell, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, City Clerk Kerrie Holland.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Joe Redman, 3776 Old Madison Pk

Digger Taylor, 3796 Old Madison Pk

Council reviewed ongoing traffic concerns at the intersection of Old Madison Pike and KY 17, including a previously completed 2017–2018 traffic study that rated the intersection at a failing level (Grade F). A request was made to pursue an updated study, as prior discussions with KYTC during that period indicated no interest in modifications. Discussion centered on potential next steps for residents, including petitioning KYTC, contacting local state representatives, and submitting formal correspondence. Alternatives such as reopening the Chisel Bridge were deemed cost-prohibitive, with its closure previously considered the best option. Additional suggestions included possible traffic pattern changes, such as restricting left turns and implementing right-turn and U-turn alternatives. It was also noted that a significant volume of traffic originates from the Tuscany area, contributing to congestion, particularly during peak hours when delays can reach 20–30 minutes for northbound left turns. The possibility of constructing a new bridge was briefly mentioned for future consideration.

### ITEMS TO DISCUSS:

#### Manufactured Homes - Andy Videkovich, PDS Director of Planning

Council reviewed the proposed text amendment related to HB 160, signed April 1, 2025, and effective July 1, 2026, addressing qualified manufactured housing defined as structures more comparable to modular homes and permanently affixed to a foundation, excluding shipping containers. A presentation was provided outlining updates and removals from current legislation. Discussion included questions regarding whether units would arrive fully completed with utilities and foundation in place, and whether factory approvals would be sufficient. It was noted that adoption would require passage of an ordinance incorporating the updated language. Additionally, it was confirmed that homeowners' associations may retain the ability to regulate such housing.

#### **Walmart Drone Delivery**

Council discussed the possibility of implementing drone delivery within the city. Informational packets were distributed, and research from other communities was reviewed, including regulations on local airspace, zoning restrictions, and ordinances in cities such as Caldwell, ID; Xenia, OH; and various Minnesota municipalities. Topics

included potential height limits for delivery drones (hovering as low as 30 feet), flight paths over roads and properties, noise levels, package safety, and whether drones could interfere with emergency communications. Questions arose regarding taxation, franchise fees, licensing delivery operators, enforcement of restrictions, flight plan requirements, and defining operational boundaries (e.g., 5 miles by roadway versus direct distance). Council agreed to reach out to other local cities for guidance and to solicit resident feedback via email. The mayor suggested requiring licensing for drone delivery operators to ensure safety and compliance.

### **5 Year Street Improvement Program Update - Marty Hellman, City Engineer.**

Council reviewed the condition of city streets based on a presentation by Marty Hellmann, using InfraHub data collected in late 2025. Streets were rated green (good), yellow (fair), and red (poor), with areas of particular concern including Mt. Vernon, which has required repeated resurfacing despite patching, and Henry Clay approaching Covington. Upcoming 2026 projects include Hazelwood and Elder (contractor selected) and Highland, with a \$60,000 city share supplemented by a grant. Discussion focused on funding and prioritization, noting that at the typical \$600,000 annual expenditure, it would take seven years to fully address Mt. Vernon, which the mayor deemed unacceptable. Options included using emergency fund overages to accelerate projects, re-evaluating street scoring via PCR tables, and potentially delaying lower-priority streets such as Walmart-area roads to advance higher-need streets. Increasing the annual budget to \$1 million could allow inclusion of additional streets like Monticello.

### **Working Group on Recreation Property Update**

Council reviewed preliminary plans for a community center at 115 Kennedy, including proposed parking, playground areas, and shelter options with bathrooms. Marty Hellmann, Verdantas presented site images and discussed adding fencing to separate the facility from adjacent residential homes. The group emphasized expediting the playground construction following the removal of the previous tot lot, considering options for playground alone or playground with a shelter. Council expressed support for moving forward with the playground plans, and Marty will confirm construction timelines. Design discussions focused on layout, cost considerations, and selecting final design options.

### **Economic Development Incentive Tools**

Council discussed a proposed ordinance from Erlanger aimed at assisting homeowners in improving older properties who may face financial constraints. The ordinance would apply to residential properties over 25 years old and include measures to preserve owner-occupancy, with restrictions preventing use for rental purposes. Options such as tax abatements were considered, with conditions if the property is not sold within five years. The matter was referred to a working group for further review and discussion.

### **Street Banner Program – Councilman Collins.**

Council discussed the possibility of installing community banners along Dixie Highway and Kyles Lane. Concerns were raised about visual clutter, though members noted banners during special occasions like Memorial Day and July 4th were well-received. Examples from Fort Mitchell, which charges \$150 per family banner and displays them from Memorial Day to Labor Day with weekly highlights, were cited as a model. Discussion included logistics such as effort required by Public Works (1–2 days to change out banners), banner longevity, frequency of replacement, and permission from Duke Energy for pole usage. The majority agreed to proceed, aiming to have banners in place by the July 4th holiday, with Jill tasked to contact Duke regarding pricing and procedures.

### **Capital Improvement Budget & Overall Investments Review**

Council reviewed the city's cash position, noting that CAO Jill Bailey provided the City's CPA Benn Harrison with a list of major expenditures to assess available liquid assets. It was recommended that not to proceed until July 30, when the seeders fund becomes available.

**Law Enforcement Navigator Program**

Council reviewed information provided by Jill regarding KRS and contract considerations, including input from Brook on required contract elements. Ben presented opioid settlement funding amounts: \$39,000 from Cardinal and \$28,000 from Jansen, with prior year allocations noted (\$8,400 per year for 2025/2026; Jansen – \$27,000 in 2023, \$882 in 2024). Discussion focused on a proposed two-year interlocal agreement, evaluating the program’s benefits and financial commitments. Jonathan supported proceeding with the program for two years at an estimated cost of approximately \$20,000 per year.

**Legislative Updates & Discussion**

Council reviewed recent legislative updates, including HB75, with inquiries noted from LINKNKY; HB567, which has Kentucky League of Cities support but raised some concerns; and HB9 (formerly HB612), which proposed an increase in AB fees. The council noted opposition to the fee increase, though the bill is showing some movement. It was also noted that certain bills, such as HB567, would require identification for ORR compliance.

Council discussed CAO Bailey’s reminder for a 1% reduction in the insurance premium tax, she believes that Councilman Wessels is still expressing continued support. It was agreed to reevaluate the proposal during the budget process. Additionally, Duke franchise fees and the Mayor’s State of the City address will be included in the April edition, not March.

**REMINDER:**

Spring clean-up day-April 18<sup>th</sup>, Councilwoman Witt expressed her need for Council to be involved and to assist in some capacity

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>-The city is hosting the Kenton County Mayors’ Group meeting 8:30am

Easter Bunny Parade-March 28<sup>th</sup> starts at the city building. Parade route to be posted on the website.

Mayor received an email from Shane @ Lexus; he is working on a formal response.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other items to discuss, Mayor asks for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Weber makes motion. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Councilman Collins	YES
Councilwoman Ross	YES
Councilman Wall	YES
Councilman Weber	YES
Councilman Wessels	YES
Councilwoman Witt	YES

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**The Caucus Meeting officially adjourned at 9:08p.m.**

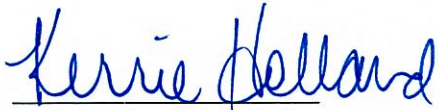
The next scheduled Caucus Meeting scheduled for April 15, 2026 @ 6:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kerrie Holland, City Clerk