



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, April 3, 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	Present
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 Clerk Maura Russell
Finance Clerk Kelly Perry
City Attorney Tim Theissen

Councilman Wall made a motion to amend the agenda to reorder items allow Marty Hellmann to present first. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments or guests.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Abstain	
Councilman Wessels	Abstain	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

George Huser Drive Sidewalk Repair Bid Results – Marty Hellmann, CT Consultants, presented the results from the bid opening on March 27th to repair sidewalk and construct a concrete channel to address drainage off the hillside. He said the low bid is from Eaton Asphalt at \$107,192.75 and the alternate bid is \$21,800, for a total of \$128,992.75, below the engineer's estimate of \$146,525. Mr. Hellmann said the alternate bid is the inclusion of an additional 100-feet of sidewalk and curb continuation. He said they are recommending the City award the bid to Eaton Asphalt.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to accept the bid from Easton Asphalt for \$128,992.75. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

There was discussion on traffic studies being conducted by CT Consultants for the City. Ms. Bailey advised CT is scheduled to attend the Caucus Meeting in two weeks to review the findings for the review of the Kyles Lane and Highland Pike intersection at the entrance to the City Administration Building as well as the data received from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet regarding the changes to traffic signaling at the Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway intersection. Mayor Hatter and Councilman Wessels both echoed similar sentiments when discussing the updates at the Kyles/Dixie interchange, saying work had been done at the City's request to make that intersection much better and the changes to the signaling has caused issues for many residents.

Mayor Hatter also reminded residents that many of the main roads through the City do not belong to the City. He asked residents to continue providing feedback on signals, potholes, or other issues and the City would work that information up to the appropriate officials at KYTC District 6.

Lorup Drainage Repairs – Mr. Bethell said residents on Lorup Avenue reached out to the City because repairs made by the City to the street are causing water to run down their driveway and into their basement. He said the angle of the driveway apron and lack of curb height are not protecting the property from water on the roadway. Mr. Bethell said this project would raise the sidewalk and driveway apron to keep water in the road and is projected to cost \$23,732.50.

Ms. Bailey added that the budget is available to cover this project in the municipal road aid fund, but this specific project is not allocated, and the amount is high enough to request Council approval.

Councilman Weber made a motion to allow Mr. Bethell to seek proposals for the Lorup Avenue drainage repairs. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

There was discussion on the time the George Huser repairs may take, with Mr. Hellmann saying approximately three to four weeks. He cautioned that there will be one-way closures with flagging crews to alert drivers. Mayor Hatter said that social media and email notices will go out ahead of the upcoming projects, including the second phase of the Fort Henry project scheduled to begin in June.

Replacement of Speed Monitoring Devices (Speed Trailer) – Chief Butler said he has received an updated quote for one solar-powered speed monitoring trailer and two solar-powered mountable speed monitoring devices. He said these will come into use and replace one of the existing mountable signs which has reached the end of its lifespan, and the department will continue to use the other mountable sign that has life remaining. He said the proposal is for \$11,471 and would use ARPA funds.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the Police Department purchase the speed monitoring devices at a cost of \$11,471. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

Window Replacement at City Hall – Ms. Bailey reminded Council that proposals were presented at the most recent Caucus Meeting and the recommendation is to move forward with the Anderson Window casement-style windows to replace all 23 windows in City Hall at a cost of \$49,720. Ms. Bailey said this funding will also come from remaining ARPA funds.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the purchase of 23 Anderson Window casement-style windows. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1st Reading Ordinance 03-2024 re: BOA Compensation – Mr. Theissen completed the first reading of Ordinance 03-2024, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending Section 153.02 of the Fort Wright Code of Ordinances to increase the compensation for the members of the City's Board of Adjustment to \$250 per year.

Ms. Bailey said that this compensation will begin with the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024. She added that there was discussion of including the City's appointed member of the Kenton County Joint Code Enforcement Board, but they found that that appointee is already compensated by the Kenton County Planning Commission. Ms. Bailey also said they are required to have training hours and this increase in compensation covers their time for that, as well as attending meetings.

Mayor Hatter encouraged residents to reach out if they are interested in serving on a Board or Committee as the City is always looking for volunteers. He thanked the current members of the Board of Adjustment, Gene Weber, Harry Geimeier, Joe Nienaber Sr, and Tom Litzler, for their continued work to support the City.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 03-2024. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

1st Reading Ordinance 04-2024 re: Bid Letting of Gas & Electric Franchise – Mr. Theissen explained that this ordinance will allow for bids for the gas and electricity in the City, which is currently Duke Energy. He said they do not expect anyone other than Duke Energy to bid, but it must go out through the Public Service Commission.

Mayor Hatter clarified that this franchise would allow Duke Energy to continue using the City's rights-of-way for wires and access and would generate significant revenue for the City. He said this is similar to the franchise agreements in place with altafiber and Verizon and sets a level playing field within the City.

Mr. Theissen completed a first reading of Ordinance 04-2024, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, establishing a non-exclusive franchise for the use of the public streets, alleys and other public grounds of the City for the transmission and distribution of either or both natural gas and electricity through and for consumption within the City.

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 04-2024. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Abeln left the meeting at 6:38 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee – Councilwoman Witt – Councilwoman Witt said the Committee sent a list of items to Council for review and will discuss those items at its next meeting in two weeks.

Finance Committee – Councilman Weber – Councilman Weber said Redtree has purchased two items for the City – an 18-month agency note at 4.72% totaling \$379,000 and a 12-month note at 4.98% totaling \$367,516. He said another \$150,000 will come due at the end of the month and it will move into a short-term money market account until other funds become available, at which point there will be another review and proposal to Council.

Councilman Weber said the Finance Committee spoke with Tom Saelinger, Cincinnati Market President, and Lynn Cole, Business Development Officer, Republic Bank, regarding interest rates on the City's current ICS [insured cash sweep] accounts. He said they are currently at a 4.25% interest rate, but Mr. Saelinger and Ms. Cole will be reviewing to see if those rates can be raised. Councilman Weber said they will also be reviewing the City's CDARS [certificate of deposit account registry service] accounts.

Mayor Hatter thanked the Finance Committee for pursuing increased rates to ensure the best, safest return on investment for the residents' money. Councilman Wessels thanked Ms. Perry, Ben Harrison, and Ms. Bailey for putting in a lot of time and work for the Finance Committee.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey said the Administration Department conducted a full spring cleaning for records management, ensuring the City's records are in order and in compliance with state requirements.

Ms. Bailey advised the pre-construction meeting was held for the Fort Henry Phase Two project and work will begin around June 1st.

Ms. Bailey said she received a request from a local baseball coach to use the field at the now-closed and City-owned Fort Wright Civic Club. After discussion by Council and the Mayor, it was decided that there needs to be a plan in place for the use of those fields, including maintenance, security, parking, etc., and those decisions will need to be made in due time once City officials have time to review suggestions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration – Ms. Russell advised planning for the Memorial Day event has begun, which will be held on Monday, May 27th, at 10:00 AM.

Finance – Ms. Perry advised the City has received over \$6,000 in delinquent tax payments since reports were generated last week.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe said the Fire Department has taken receipt of two pieces of equipment to assist in fighting electric vehicle fires and accidents – a blanket that covers the vehicle and an immobilizer that plugs into the charging port to disable the engine.

Chief Schewe reminded residents to clear their drains, both inside their homes and in their yards, to prevent flooding.

Police Department – Chief Butler advised there is still an active open position in the Police Department, and he hopes to begin interviews in the next few weeks.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents of the Vacation Check program available through the Police Department. He also advised there is still an active opening for the Police Department and asked people to share the posting.

Public Works Department – Mr. Bethell said the Wrights Summit/Kyles Lane intersection is almost complete and the intersection should open soon. He advised the City Administration Building parking lot repaving will start in May and will be wrapped up before the Memorial Day event.

Mr. Bethell said notices will be sent to residents impacted by the Fort Henry Phase Two project. He also provided an update on the department's new vehicles, saying work is ongoing to build out the trucks.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Theissen advised Council he provided them with information about the Housing Authority of Covington and it will be discussed at the Caucus Meeting.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter read from a thank you note to Police Officer Emily Horseman.

Mayor Hatter thanked Jessica Nienaber for her work assisting the Police and Fire departments with the Easter Bunny visit a few weeks ago.

Mayor Hatter thanked Ms. Nienaber, former mayor Joe Nienaber Jr, and the Fort Wright Civic Club Board of Directors for their work with the City to turn the Fort Wright Civic Club building and property over to the City. He said Council will begin discussing what to do with the property but thanked them for the gift of an important and historic organization.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Witt – reminded residents that Community Clean Up Day will be Saturday, April 20th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM; t-shirts and lunch will be provided. Councilwoman Witt also thanked the group of volunteers who have been working on litter clean-up consistently on the smaller roads so that Clean Up Day can be focused on larger roads. She said that the group has already collected 23 bags of garbage in 2024.

Ms. Bailey provided economic development project updates, saying Sonic is targeting an August or September open date and Dunkin' is slated to open on May 28th. She said the new Lexus dealership is moving along but no open date has been set.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents to follow the City on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn for updates and shareable information like the Police Department opening and Clean Up Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

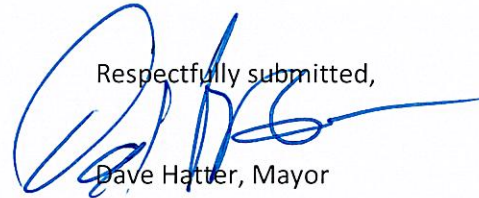
ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:


Maura Russell, City Clerk