



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting Wednesday, May 6, 2020 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Mayor Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Here
Councilman Feinauer	Here
Councilman Wall	Here
Councilman Weber	Here
Councilman Wessels	Here
Councilwoman Witt	Here

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Kyle Winslow
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 or guests.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. Councilwoman Witt made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to amend the agenda to include two resolutions for consideration by the Council. Councilman Abeln made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter said the first resolution is in recognition of City Attorney Kyle Winslow. He said Mr. Winslow has been a faithful and dedicated advisor, and he will be missed as he takes on a new position. City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey read Resolution 06-2020, recognizing Mr. Winslow's service to the City of Fort Wright.

Mr. Winslow thanked Mayor Hatter and Councilmembers for the privilege and honor of representing Fort Wright for almost seven years. He said it has not felt like a job and he looks forward to keeping in touch with the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff. Councilwoman Witt thanked Mr. Winslow for his service. Councilman Wall wished Mr. Winslow luck in his new position.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Wessels. Councilwoman Witt made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter told Mr. Winslow he appreciates everything he has done and once the quarantine is over, they will celebrate his new position and the many years he has given to the City of Fort Wright.

Mayor Hatter introduced the second resolution to be considered by Council. Mr. Winslow read Resolution 07-2020, declaring the need to end the quarantine and to safely and quickly reopen the economy in Kentucky immediately. Councilman Feinauer stated he liked the way the resolution was written and motioned for a vote. Councilman Wessels made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter said he wrote a letter several weeks ago to Governor Beshear discussing how to reopen the economy safely, and he said he is happy to see progress is being made. He said he previously owned a small business, currently works for a small business, and deals with primarily small and medium businesses. Mayor Hatter said approximately 600,000 Kentuckians are out of work. He said they have been running financial modeling on what this means for the City's budget and everywhere they look

there will be decreased revenue from sources, including insurance premiums, payroll taxes, and inventory cuts.

Mayor Hatter said he and Council continue to model what this will mean for the City's finances in the long run, but ultimately less revenue means the City cannot provide as many services as residents expect and deserve. He reminded residents that the City is continuing to monitor the situation closely. Mayor Hatter said he is in favor of opening the economy as safely as quickly possible before the City, County, and State budgets are impacted in such a way that it would be difficult to recover. He also reminded residents there is also an ongoing pension crisis. Mayor Hatter said he appreciates Council being willing to take this on. He said he will be forwarding the resolution to elected officials at the County and State level, as well as a copy to the Governor. Councilman Wessels said he could not agree more with this resolution and that it is time to get people back to work.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hatter said there was nothing on the agenda for New Business, but he and Council have been working on modeling finances for the budget and understanding the short- and long-term impact on the City's budget as a result of the loss of revenue. He said he hopes to be meeting in person by the June meeting with a full agenda. He said he also hopes to get a full report from State Representative Banta and State Senator McDaniel at the June meeting as well.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey reported that a preconstruction meeting was held for the Amsterdam Road project. All contracts have been executed and the anticipated start date is June 1. She said there will be notices sent to media and residents, as well as signage so everyone is aware of road closures and timing. Ms. Bailey said additional funds were required, and OKI has approved, as well as SD1 for additional storm water funding.

Ms. Bailey said interviews have been conducted for the three new firefighter/paramedic positions. She said decisions have been made and that process has gone well. She said more information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Bailey reminded residents that the City has set up an email address to assist with any resident that needs assistance or has concerns regarding CoViD-19, which is help@fortwright.com. She said to-date no one has reached out requesting help.

Ms. Bailey said the City has entered into a new contract for credit card services with MuniPAY. She said this system will work with the current tax software and will allow the City to take payments via credit card for property taxes and services, including passports, fingerprinting, and reports. She said this will allow for much easier public access to services, and the fees with this service are cheaper than before.

Ms. Bailey also provided an update on OpenGov, which provides transparency to the City's finances. She said the accounts have been recharted and new charting has been sent to OpenGov to be updated on the site, which should happen soon.

Ms. Bailey said she is currently working on the budget amendment, as well as salary surveys, new budget, and modeling. She said the finance committee met last week to discuss projections. She said that information will be used to rework the modeling and she will get updates to Councilmembers soon.

Ms. Bailey said the City Building lock system was being reworked today, and that will continue the rest of the week. She also said insurance has been put out to bid by the broker. She said there will be no increases on vision or dental insurances as they both honored a rate lock signed last year. She said she expects no increase for health insurance into the new fiscal year.

Ms. Bailey closed by thanking Mr. Winslow for his help over the last few years.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – City Clerk Maura Russell provided the Administration update. She said she has been working on moving property files to the new shelving system, as well as continuing to work on ensuring the personnel files for all employees have the proper documentation. She also announced that she is officially a Notary Public and looks forward to assisting with that once the City reopens for services to the public.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe said the department has been slow but is now seeing a slight increase in runs. He said he is amazed at the sustained support from residents and businesses for the last two months. Chief Schewe said the City's ambulance has been down for a while and it is getting fixed now. He also said the new ambulance is continuing to be built by Horton. Chief Schewe followed up on Ms. Bailey's report, saying he is looking forward to bringing the new employees on board.

Mayor Hatter thanked Kenton County for loaning a back-up ambulance to the City while the new one is under construction and the main ambulance has been offline. He said there has been no interruption in service and he appreciates the Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann and the County for generously allowing the City to use it for several weeks.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Winslow said that he had no report, but he appreciates working with everyone and hopes to come back to visit.

Police Department – Chief Butler said activity and call volume are down and because of decreased traffic through the city, accident calls are down as well. He said that is a testament to the residents, as they are not causing a lot of the issues to which the department responds. He echoed Chief Schewe's sentiments regarding the support his staff has received from residents and businesses. He said his staff has remained healthy and hopes that continues.

Chief Butler also thanked Mr. Winslow for his support. He said he was helpful in his previous tenure as City Administrator, and now in his role as Police Chief, and he appreciates his counsel and friendship.

Public Works – Mr. Bethell said things have not changed much with his team, who continue mowing, cleaning drains, picking up trash, and repairing sidewalks. He said bid opening for the 2020 Street Project will be held virtually on May 14, 2020.

Mr. Bethell reiterated the information Ms. Bailey said about the Amsterdam Road project. He said Amsterdam Road will be closed beginning June 1 between General Drive and Morris Road for the first

wave as they work on the pier wall. He anticipates this project taking most of the summer. He also said the Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway intersection is moving along. He cautioned drivers that there is a new traffic pattern and to be careful travelling through the area. Mr. Bethell also said SD1 is still on Fort Henry, replacing a sanitary line that broke when the hillside slipped.

Mayor Hatter said the City will be getting information out to residents about Amsterdam Road and the Street Program with timelines. He said he hopes that will minimize disruptions as he knows these projects will cause interruptions for residents and those driving through the City.

Councilman Wessels asked about Don Martin Drive. Ms. Bailey said she has talked with Mr. Winslow and she is optimistic there will not be a need for an executive session, and they have provided a timeline.

Councilman Feinauer asked if access to homes will be maintained on Amsterdam Road, and Mr. Bethell confirmed that they will maintain local traffic. Councilman Feinauer also asked about construction workers parking on Ridgewood, which in the past has blocked people from getting into and out of their homes. Mr. Bethell said they will be sure to address that.

Councilman Feinauer also commented on the missing flashing stop signs. Mr. Bethell said his team has removed the flashing stop signs and replaced them with traditional stop signs, and will be removing some decorative signposts, to protect them during construction, from Amsterdam Road as they will need to be moved. Councilwoman Witt said she has seen people not stopping at the non-flashing stop signs. Chief Butler said he will ask his department to keep an eye on it.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hatter read through some Thank You cards that had come in from residents, including Jim and Kathy Quast on Parkside Place, the Holbrook family on Knob Hill, a card thanking Specialist Hoppenjans for his restraint and composure when dealing with a man in the Walmart parking lot recently, a student named Pippa, and from Claire Fussinger.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that Kenton County has signed a burn ban for the County, Executive Order 20-22, from May through September. He said it bans open burns except for small fire pits in backyards.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Feinauer – He wished everyone a Happy Mothers Day and Happy Memorial Day.

Mayor Hatter said that because of the ongoing quarantine and social distancing, the City has decided to cancel this year's Memorial Day event. He said there are other ideas of how to do this later in the year, but he asked everyone to find another meaningful way to express gratitude this year. He said there will be announcements to remind residents of this cancellation.

Councilman Wessels – He said that in Mr. Bethell's report there were 14 new building permits, which reflects an additional \$600,000 in work in the City, and this concurs with the Chief Building Inspector's information from the Planning and Development meeting last week. He said he is sure some of this work has been in the pipeline, but the unemployment issues may cause this to change moving forward. He reminded residents and Council that the 2.5% increase in property values helps the City budget.

Mayor Hatter said that there is concern that unemployment issues will cause budget concerns as time goes on, but the Property Valuation Administration is reviewing property values in the City this year and they hope for a 2.5% increase in values, which will help the City in the long run. He said this is a testament to the residents of Fort Wright and it being a great place to live. Mayor Hatter echoed earlier comments about the Help Line that was established. He said it was advertised everywhere they could, and it is a testament to the people who live in the City that they are helping each other out, with no requests through this help line. He said they appreciate it and encourage residents to keep up the support of the team and each other during this trying time.

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. Mr. Winslow said this is regarding litigation that has been proposed against the City related to an easement benefitting Battery Hooper Park. A motion was made by Councilman Feinauer. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Special Council Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 6:55 PM.

The Special Council Meeting was reopened to the public at 7:29 PM.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn the Special Council Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:


Maura Russell, City Clerk