

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
5/12/04 – 6:00PM

Mayor Weaver opened the Council meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr., Mr. Jim Robke and Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek. Also present were City Administrator Larry Klein, City Attorney Pete Summe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney, and City Clerk Joyce Woods.

Citizen Comments

Eileen Hastings of 1808 Mount Vernon Drive addressed Council as a representative of Community of Faith Church, 1400 Highland Avenue. Ms. Hastings advised she would like to comment on the possible adoption of a proposed Storer Property Park Master Plan. As a member of the property committee with the church, Ms. Hastings advised that the church is more than ready to co-operate with the City in working out parking for this property. The church would like to have a definite plan for this property and the best way to have this done is to develop a master plan. The church backs the adoption of a master plan for the Storer Property.

Floyd Hastings of 1808 Mount Vernon Drive addressed Council as Chairman and representative of the Parks and Recreation Board to speak on the same subject, the Storer Property Master Plan. A report was included in the Council packet from the Parks and Recreation Board regarding a recommendation to adopt a Master Plan proposal for the Storer Property as this was the top priority of Fort Wright residents to have a Signature Park in the City. Since the land has already been obtained we need to continue the process. Mr. Hastings advised everyone he has been in contact with is very excited about the prospect of this park and what it will represent. He stated it is important to hire a professional firm, that we have seen the work they have done in the area, to plan this park. Mr. Hastings urged the passage of the Parks and Recreation Board Ordinance to let citizens know what is expected and post this Ordinance on site at all locations. Mayor Weaver suggested that the committee meet with Mr. Summe or Mr. Klein to work up a draft of the Ordinance that Council could look at.

Roger Schroder addressed Council on behalf of the Vision Committee to give endorsement for the idea of a Master Plan for development of the Storer Property. This was the highest priority of the citizens of Fort Wright to have a better park system and to acquire grants for this property if we have an established plan. There is interest in developing this property by people other than just residents of Fort Wright.

Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Hatter to approve the minutes of the 04/14/04 Council Meeting. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Nienaber, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Vivian Schenck from the Cincinnati Enquirer, Business Development addressed Council regarding the profile that will be featured about the City of Fort Wright in an upcoming Great Communities Feature of the paper. Ms. Schenck advised she would like to meet with someone to get information regarding schools, businesses and the overall City. Mayor Weaver suggested she set up a meeting with Mr. Klein for this information and thanked her for choosing Fort Wright for this article.

Merrick Krey, Kenton County PVA, addressed Council and advised that this is the final week for any property owner to appeal their assessment or to begin the process by requesting an appeal on their assessment. May 17, 2004 is the final day to apply for this appeal or the property owner would have to wait until 2005. Fort Wright was one of the cities that revaluated property for 2004. Mr. Krey advised that citizens can go to the PVA website and retrieve information for personal use. Mayor Weaver thanked Mr. Krey for taking the time to come to the meeting.

Storer Property Park Master Plan

Mayor Weaver advised there were three speakers present at tonight's meeting who spoke on behalf of proceeding with the Storer Property Park Master Plan. Previously representatives from Human Nature Inc., made a presentation at the Council meeting and this was discussed at the Budget Retreat. Mayor Weaver stated that he believed the majority members of Council was in favor of developing and using this property for park purposes and discussed the need for a Master Plan. Mr. Hiltz stated that he is in favor of moving ahead with the Master Plan

Motion by Mr. Hiltz to approve this Master Plan with one modification, that when this plan is complete that we have all presentation materials we need to apply for grants. Also to allow Mr. Klein to execute this with the modification through Human Nature Inc., with an estimated cost of \$41,500. Motion seconded by Mr. Feinauer. Discussion followed. Roll call vote taken, Hatter, and Nienaber voting in favor, Wolnitzek abstained, Robke voting no. Motion passed.

This expense will be included in the amended budget for 2003-2004.

Resolution 6-04 – Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services

Mr. Klein explained that as of July 1, 2004, every city in Kenton County except some smaller cities or ones that opt not to participate will enter into an interlocal agreement with Kenton County Fiscal Court for Paramedic service through Transcare, Inc. This will be for a one year contract beginning July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 and Fort Wright's share will not exceed \$26,000.00 per year that was previously discussed at the April budget retreat. This will provide two paramedics and two vehicles 24/7 to all participating cities. We are proposing to pay for this service through our Fire/EMS Fund. As for long term funding, a proposal will be to place this on the general election ballot of November 2004 that a real property tax rate of not less than \$.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation be proposed. Discussion followed.

Fire/EMS Chief Schewe advised he is very happy with the service that we receive from Transcare, Inc., and they are the training agency for our EMT'S.

Motion by Mr. Wolnitzek, second by Mr. Nienaber to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Hatter and Hiltz voting in favor, Robke voting no. Motion passed.

Resolution 7-04 – Provision of EMS to City of Park Hills

Mayor Weaver advised that this is a matter that we have been discussing with the City of Park Hills for many months assisting them in ambulance service for their residents. Mr. Klein advised Resolution 7-04 is a proposal to enter into a contract to provide emergency medical services to the City of Park Hills, Kentucky. This agreement is similar to the agreement we have with the City of Kenton Vale, except we also provide fire service to that community. This is a two year agreement. Discussion followed. Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Hatter to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Nienaber, Wolnitzek and Robke voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

First Reading of Ordinance 3-04- Amended FYE 2003/2004 Budget

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. Mr. Robke suggested that footnotes should be added to the bottom of pages explaining any changes made in the budget. Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Nienaber to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Hatter, Wolnitzek voting in favor, Robke voting no. Motion passed.

First Reading of Ordinance 4-04 – Proposed FYE 2004-2005 Budget

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. Motion by Mr. Hiltz, second by Mr. Wolnitzek to approve with corrections. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Hatter, Nienaber and Robke voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Hatter suggested that percentage changes from year to year should be noted on printouts.

Amsterdam Road/General Drive Intersection

City staff has had a few meetings and discussed a proposal of placing a stop sign or other solutions at the intersection of Amsterdam Road and General Drive. Mr. Klein advised the committee would like to meet with any Council member and the City Engineer to further discuss the problems in this area. Discussion followed. Mr. Wolnitzek suggested a lower speed limit or the location placement of a stop sign might help this situation. Chief Kreinest advised it was a recommendation to have the speed limit lowered, post and monitor this regularly. Mr. Wolnitzek suggested having a temporary Ordinance for a speed limit and post it. Chief Kreinest advised if we can get the speed limit set at 25 MPH and get it posted, we should see very much improvement.

Storer Property Temporary Access Plan

Mr. Klein advised that Council requested information on making the Storer Property more available as soon as possible for public use. We do have some pricing on restroom facilities and the need for a temporary agreement with the Church for parking until a long term agreement can be reached. Mayor Weaver suggested working out a temporary agreement with the Church to utilize parking and come back at the next meeting with a plan.

Parks and Recreation Ordinance

KMRMA was sent a copy of a proposed Ordinance and their comment was that if we were going to issue permits for use of shelter or parts of the park we need to have a process in place for this. Mr. Klein suggested that we have the same procedure as we have for the South Hills Civic Club, take reservations and applicants cannot reserve the facility more than a year in advance. Signage for the lake and dam will need to be posted when a decision is made what the rules will be. Discussion followed. Mayor Weaver suggested make the necessary changes to the Ordinance and report back at the next meeting.

Administrator Report

Building and Zoning Fee Schedule

A number of cities have been meeting with NKAPC regarding the feasibility to have NKAPC set and collect the fees for building inspection. This would resolve a lot of issues for the City as we are only the intermediary and have to pay NKAPC for the inspection service expense.

Lorup Sewer Project Update

A Phase II easement status report is included in the Council packet, including names and addresses of residents. A number of these residents have various requests and Mr. Maloney has been in contact with most of the residents. There are still a couple of easements outstanding on Phase I. Discussion followed. Mayor Weaver advised we need to do everything possible and if no easements are received we need to move on and do whatever is necessary to get the project completed. Mr. Summe advised that we do need a timeline to get the easements signed and get the project completed. He also liked the idea of having individual meetings with the homeowners and try to work through this process. Mayor Weaver agreed with this idea. Council agreed to have staff, Mr. Summe and Mayor Weaver sit down and work this out for minimum time and cost to the City.

Litter Abatement Funds

The City received \$2600.00 from the State for the Litter Abatement program. This is to be used for trash pickup in the city. We also applied for up to \$2500.00 for a reimbursement Safety Grant through KLC that they offer for safety programs. Some items have already been purchased, street signs, stop signs, firefighting equipment etc. We should know by the next meeting if we have received this grant.

NKU/Scripps Howard Community Partnership Grant Award

This grant was awarded to the City a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Klein advised he has had two meetings with Dr. Ramage and Behringer-Crawford Museum and they will begin to schedule actual excavation in August. Two weekends in September they will schedule digs with students and residents who are interested. Discussion followed regarding what accepting this grant would involve and what would be done on the property.

Memorial Day 2004

May 31, 2004 at 10:00AM, Memorial Day Service here at the Veterans Memorial. Our speaker this year will be Joe Bowman, Volunteer Firefighter/EMT who served in Iraq and Kuwait. Everyone is invited to attend. Anyone who knows of anyone in Fort Wright serving in the military are urged to call and give us this information so they can be recognized at the service. Mr. Maloney advised that any Veteran or family member that has served in the military can call and give us their information and we can still place a brick at the Veterans Memorial for this year's ceremony until the cutoff date this Friday morning, May 14, 2004.

Council Committee Reports

Community Affairs

Mr. Feinauer reminded everyone that Saturday, May 15, 2004 is Armed Forces Day. For the Easter Egg Hunt of 2005 we now have a bunny suit for whoever would like to volunteer to wear it.

Economic Development

Mr. Wolnitzek would like to distribute a flag to every home in the City on September 11 and pass them out at intersections. This is an appropriate way to keep this memory fresh in everyone's minds and support of our troops.

Mr. Nienaber would like to have a support sign in front of the building, replacing the one that was removed.

Mr. Hatter suggested that we consider rotating flags in front of the City Building for different branches of military service like the Sanitation District has been doing.

Legal Matters- Ms. Classic Car Wash

Mr. Summe advised the attorneys are working on a motion for summary judgment.

Department Reports

Fire/EMS Chief Schewe reported that the Volunteer Board of the Fire Department is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and raffle at the firehouse on Friday, May 21 from 5-9PM. The cost is \$8.00 a person and \$4.00 for children. Thanks to everyone who participated in the mulch sale. Mayor Weaver congratulated Chief Schewe and the members of the department for the agreement to provide ambulance service to Park Hills.

Chief Kreinest reported on the following:

Still working on a joint investigation with other departments and the FBI regarding robberies in Fort Wright.

Alert the elderly citizens of Fort Wright that this is the time of year for scams. Please watch out for your neighbors.

Citizens Police Academy has graduation ceremony next Tuesday. This was a very successful session.

MDT's are close to being installed.

Theft of tools at the Wal-Mart site.

Burglary in the 1400 block of East Henry Clay Avenue.

Discussion regarding motor scooter ordinances at the Kenton County Police Chief's meeting. Regulating and clarifying this ordinance.

There has been an influx of fingerprinting requests from non-residents. Do we want to establish a fee? Mayor Weaver advised the Chief get information on fees.

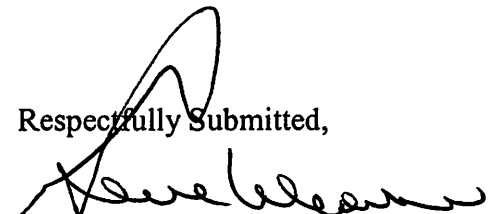
Police Memorial Service this week. Doug Bryant's name was added.

Public Works Director Tim Maloney reported that new wallpaper and chair rail was added to the South Hills Civic Club. They are also sprucing up Volunteer Park.

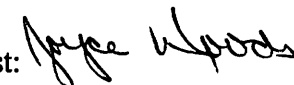
City Clerk Joyce Woods reported that there were a few more delinquent tax bills paid. One from 2002 and three from 2003.

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

Respectfully Submitted,


Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest:


Joyce Woods, City Clerk