



**CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY CAUCUS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, May 23, 2018 6:00 P.M.**

Immediately following the Special Meeting, Mayor Hatter opened the caucus meeting at 6:10.

The following members were present: Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Mike Hoerlein, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Bernie Wessels, and Ms. Margie Witt.

Also present for the meeting were: Out-Going City Administrative Officer Ed Butler, In-Coming City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey, City Attorney Kyle Winslow, Police Chief Marc Schworer, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, and City Clerk Susan Ellis

Mr. Dave Abeln was unavailable for the meeting. Mr. Mike Hoerlein left at 6:40 PM. Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe arrived at 6:55 PM.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Occupational Licensing

Bob Luckhardt of 534 Montpelier Court addressed the council regarding concerns about occupational licensing and taxes and payroll taxes. Mr. Luckhardt contacted Kenton County to determine who enforces this licensing and tax collection. Kenton County stated it was the cities who did the enforcement. He then contacted three cities and was told that there was no staffing or manpower for enforcement, that they were not going to take a worker off a job to ask for a license, or that if enforced it would be public relations nightmare. He cited an example of his wife having been to garage sales where a police officer stopped and asked for a permit. Mr. Luckhardt gave an example where he approached a worker with no name on truck or trailer and asked if he had a license. The worker replied yes and that the name was Napoleon. Mr. Luckhardt followed up with Kenton County but there was no license under that name. Another worker he approached did not know what the license was. His son has a lawn service and pays for his license and taxes. It is not fair to allow people not to pay their license fee and taxes. Mr. Luckhardt provided examples of workers and possible revenues being lost. Mr. Luckhardt continued stating Governor Bevin is suggesting a service tax and if he does that, how is he going to enforce that? Obviously, go thru occupational license. Mr. Luckhardt stated that it is unfair that only the honest person is paying the tax. He recognized the difficulty to determine all the payroll taxes for the various locations. He then asked the council what its stance is on this and should there be enforcement of it.

Mayor Hatter voiced his understanding of the situation and agreed in principal that everyone should be paying. He stated that under a previous administration the City was much more aggressive in enforcing the licensing. He went on to explain the challenges of enforcement citing limited staff, and determining whether a truck belongs to a worker or to a resident.

There is no requirement to have a name on a vehicle, but when it is obvious the City should attempt to enforce it. He agreed that it was unfair and that it was not that the City did not want to enforce it, but that the City has limited staff and one of busiest police departments. Mayor Hatter asked for it to put on caucus meeting agenda for June and requested a cost/benefit analysis to confirm numbers before taking action. He emphasized the importance to educate about and promote licensing to public. Mr. Wessels commented that in the past enforcement was so aggressive that it became a negative issue. Residents were upset that the police officers were stopping contractors from making repairs. He cautioned against creating a situation where contractors would be discouraged from working in Fort Wright and stressed the importance of property improvements to increase value and finding a careful of handling the enforcement. Mayor Hatter reiterated that he would commit to an ongoing educational campaign and further discussion at next caucus meeting.

Traffic Concerns for Marcella and St. Anthony Drives

Sydney Terrill of 1590 Marcella Drive addressed the council on behalf of several residents on Marcella and St. Anthony Drives regarding the dangerous traffic situation when turning left or right onto Kyles Lane. She presented a list of 20 signatures. She recognized that a traffic light was not a solution. She suggested the possibility of opening up another access on Christine Court which she stated used to be a street that went all the way through. Mr. Wessels responded that there were many factors to consider. Adding a street is an enormous amount of cost as it would involve eminent domain on two property owners. It would also increase traffic on Henry Clay which would meet with opposition from Henry Clay residents. Mr. Wessels as if the residents would be willing to participate in this option financially. Ms. Terrill responded that it would depend on the cost and length of time to pay but that she did not know how the other residents would respond. Mayor Hatter stated that a possible assessment over time could be implemented for that neighborhood. He offered the idea of making it one way and Ms. Witt suggested a U turn option. Mayor Hatter stated that the City could research options but that it does not control that road as it is state controlled. Ms. Witt asked if there had been any study conducted about changing timing on light in the morning to provide relief. Mayor Hatter stated that the City would look into the U turn idea, the timing of the lights, and cost estimates for extending the road but that opposition for extending the road should be expected. The City is only able to do what the State will allow.

John Brophy of 1592 Marcella Drive also spoke on this same issue. He commented that Fort Wright has grown tremendously and has not adapted as well as it should have to the influx of traffic. He stated that a lot more traffic is coming up the hill, cars are running the red light, and that the no turn regulation is not being enforced. He asked about the options of putting a camera there, an additional light or synchronizing the light. Mayor Hatter responded that when dealing with state road that the City can only do what the State will allow. He said that it would be very unlikely to get another light but that exploring the timing thing and U turn option made sense. He stated that enforcement was tricky as staff was limited and that there was no area where someone could be pulled over. The support of Representative Diane St. Onge and Senator Chris McDaniel was mentioned. Mayor Hatter cautioned that their power was limited,

they were only two voices and that ultimately the transportation district follows the authority of the governor. Mr. Brophy expressed concern regarding the expansion of I75 and the possibility that additional land would be taken in that area. Conversation then turned to the Fort Mitchell barrier wall and if Fort Wright could get one. Mayor Hatter responded that he was unaware of any new information regarding the bridge or rearranging highway. Mr. Wall responded that Fort Wright has tried to get a wall and that sound studies were completed but at the time the decibels did not rise to the level that would require a wall. It was suggested that the City go back and ask again. Ms. Bailey suggested reaching out to the businesses on 3L regarding the possibility of adjusting schedules which would affect the influx of employees for safety of those employees. Mayor Hatter stated that he could reach out to Covington and Mr. Wessels supported the idea. Mayor Hatter stated that the City would look into the U turn idea, the timing of the lights, and cost estimates for extending the road. The City would also reach out regarding sound and consider the camera suggestion but that he did not know if it was legal in Kentucky. Chief Schworer responded that it was not legal. Mayor Hatter recommended that the group of residents who are concerned about this issue reach out to their representatives as they may have better response from them and that it would be helpful to the cause.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding the Model Sign Ordinance

The Community Improvement Committee met and the consensus was that there was still more evaluation needed before making a recommendation. All council members should be given complete copies of the current and proposed ordinances to compare both to be prepared to discuss this further at June caucus meeting. PDS has gone to great pains to modernize the ordinance to align with Supreme Court rulings. Not using their effort will create additional cost to the City as the city attorney would need to do all the work to update ordinance. Mayor Hatter recommended taking advantage of work that has been done and modifying it as needed.

Discussion regarding a revised Nuisance Ordinance

Currently enforcement and appeal hearings are done within the City. This revision proposes to allow PDS to be involved in this process. Mr. Winslow explained that it is not changing the ordinance, but changing who can hear the appeals. Mr. Butler commented that this makes for a cleaner process and would better for the City. It would keep things consistent. Mayor Hatter expressed concern that once control is relinquished to entity another entity that that the entity may or may not have the City's best interests in mind.

The proposed joint Board of Adjustment was mentioned. However, it solves the challenge of getting people to serve on boards. It is always same people. Mr. Wessels commented that if the current system is working now, it should be kept. Mr. Butler commented that it was difficult to get members to keep their required training current.

Mr. Winslow referred back to the nuisance ordinance stating that if there is an ordinance and also a joint enforcement board, a joint board is needed to hear the appeals. He did not think that PDS proactively enforces, but that the City would control the enforcement.

Following the discussion, the consensus was to move forward with the revision.

Discussion regarding the 2018-19 Municipal Road Aid Funding

Mr. Butler reported that the payment came in a week or two ago. The \$114,000 received was consistent with what was received in the past and with what was budgeted. A resolution to accept the funds would be drafted for the next council meeting.

Discussion regarding Park Road Development

Mayor Hatter reported that he had reached out to Steve Berling but that Mr. Berling was unable to attend tonight's meeting but was willing to meet at a later time. Residents have expressed concerns about this development and there is misinformation circulating. The City has sent out an email, posted an article on the website and utilized Facebook and Twitter to tactfully address rumors and misinformation. Mr. Wall asked about any complaints. Mr. Butler responded that he had received one phone call before the email and two or three phone calls after the meeting. These communications were questions not complaints. Mayor Hatter stated that he had not received any questions. Mr. Butler commended that at this time it is only proposed. Mayor Hatter stated that the City will communicate information as it becomes available.

Discussion regarding Code Enforcement

This issue had been added to the agenda at the request of Mr. Hoerlein, who had to leave early, regarding the need for enforcement for such issues as parking in the grass, etc. Mayor Hatter stated that he would reach out to Mr. Hoerlein and discuss this further with Ms. Bailey. This item will be placed back on the agenda in the future.

Discussion regarding Beautify the Bluegrass 2018

Mayor Hatter reported that he happened to see this about this program and was interested in gaging interest.

Related to this topic, it was brought up that there was an issue with the current landscaping contractor of grass not being cut. It was suggested to look for someone else to provide those services but that cost may go up substantially. The current contractor is very inexpensive. Mayor Hatter stated that the issue with the City grass cutting needs to be addressed and requested Ms. Bailing complete a cost/benefit analysis regarding bringing this work in house versus hiring a contractor.

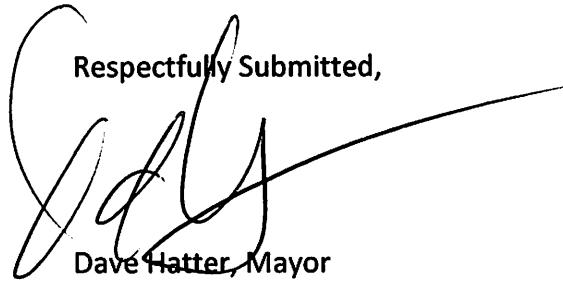
Mr. Wessels suggested the need to look at interstate areas with a professional contractor to create and entry way for the city. Ms. Bailey was supportive. The process would involve developing a plan, possibly using a landscape architect, and then presenting it to the State. Mr. Wessels suggested that this could be a one-time capital fund expenditure and then it would become a maintenance expense. Mayor Hatter expressed that he was in favor and that this should be sent to the Community Improvement Committee to come back with a high-level plan and budget. Once completed, this information would be used to develop an RFP or presented to a landscape architect as parameters for the project.

ADJOURNMENT OF CAUCUS MEETING

Motion by Mr. Wall, second by Ms. Witt to adjourn the caucus meeting. Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Bernie Wessels, Ms. Margie Witt, voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

The caucus meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dave Hatter, Mayor. The signature is written over the text "Respectfully Submitted," and "Dave Hatter, Mayor".

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Susan Ellis, City Clerk. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Susan Ellis, City Clerk