



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwrightky.gov | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Hatter called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of Silence. City Clerk Kerrie Holland called the roll.

Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Ms. Donna Ross	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also present were Mayor Hatter, City Administrator Jill Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Captain Rob Griffin, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, City Clerk Kerrie Holland, and Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

None

MINUTES

Minutes from the April 1, 2026 City Caucus Meeting

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilman Weber seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Minutes from the April 15, 2026 Special City Council Meeting

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Abstains
Councilman Weber	Yes

Councilman Wessels Yes
Councilwoman Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Minutes from the April 15, 2026 City Caucus Meeting

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilman Weber seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to amend the agenda to allow the discussion of the Towne Properties Easement. Councilman Weber made a motion to amend the agenda to allow the additional discussion of the Towne Properties Easement. Councilman Collins seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2nd Reading of ORD re: Qualified Manufactured Home Regulation Regs

City Attorney reads the 2nd reading of ORD 02-2026 aloud. With no further questions or discussion, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve ORD 02-2026. Councilman Wessels made a motion. Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

RFQ Engineering Services – Dixie Sidewalk and Highland Paving Project

Council reviewed one proposal submitted by Verdantas and discussed appointing Verdantas to serve as the consultant for the Weber project. Discussion included how the property located in front of Christ would be addressed, with direction given to coordinate with Christ and follow the appropriate grant-specific process. It was noted that Verdantas is a state-certified consultant.

Council also discussed the OKI grant and acknowledged Council’s decision to move forward with the project in coordination with the Wyler development. The project is intended to improve the area’s aesthetics as redevelopment of the site progresses. The total estimated project cost is approximately \$1 million.

Councilman Weber had some questions about the projects, and CAO Bailey addressed them. Mayor Hatter addressed the importance of completing this project.

Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Engineering Services for the Dixie Sidewalk & Highland Paving Projects, to be awarded to Verdantas. With nothing further to discuss, Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilwoman Witt seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

FWCC Play Structure Project

Council discussed the proposed playground project with representative Ross Vocke from MotzScapes, who advised that equipment lead time is estimated at 12-14 weeks. Once the play structure arrives, installation is expected to take approximately one week, with a target completion date by the end of August if the order is placed within the next two weeks.

CAO Bailey distributed samples of potential flooring surfaces for review and discussion. Mayor Hatter noted that he is a long-term customer of MotzScapes and stated that he did not know Mr. Vocke prior to these discussions. Additional discussions focused on the flexibility of playground equipment design, including the ability to add components from one play structure to another. Questions were also raised about the availability of replacement parts for discontinued models, with assurance that parts remain available through custom design options. Cao Bailey and representative Vocke explained the different costs compared to those received in each model play structure. There were several variances within each structure example option.

Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve a playground structure model so the ordering process can begin, and the project can continue forward. With no further discussions or questions, Councilman Wessels made a motion. Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation May 6, 2026 – Recognizing National Public Works Week

City Attorney Brooking reads aloud the Proclamation May 6, 2026, to Council and attendees. With no further discussion, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the proclamation. Councilman Weber makes a motion to approve. Councilman Collins seconded the motion. Ms. Holland calls the roll. Mayor Hatter gives compliments to the Public Works Team.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	(Left seat @ 6:54:39 pm) (Returned to seat @ 7:00:48 pm)

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Municipal Road Aid(MRA) Cooperative Agreement Fiscal Year 26/27

Council discussed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 funding projections and noted that, as of July 1, 2026, the City will receive \$112,170.12, including an initial payment of \$65,000. With no further discussions, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract for the MRA Cooperative Agreement. Councilwoman Ross made a motion to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract for the MRA Cooperative Agreement. Councilman Collins seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes(Left seat @ 7:00:50 pm, Returned @ 7:03:00 pm)
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Towne Properties Easement

Council discussed an easement request related to Towne Properties at Wrights Point. It was noted that the City would execute the easement upon the future property owner's written request. Towne Properties has officially requested the city to execute the easement. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion. Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilman Wall seconded the motion. Councilman Wessels asks if the easement is just for utilities. CAO replies that it is for Duke Energy and offers to have Mr. Wessels view the easement.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

CAO REPORT

CAO submitted the report in the packet for review. Reminder: the Memorial Day event has been finalized and will be held on May 25, 2026 @ 10 am. Council discussed HB 757, which was recently passed and eliminates the use of pennies while providing for a modified rounding method. The legislation is proposed to take effect on July 1. It was noted that the matter may be added to the agenda for the next meeting, and the information has been sent to the City's Attorney and CPA Ben Harrison for review. The new policy provides guidance on accounting for cash payments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration

City Clerk Kerrie Holland – Nothing in addition to her submitted report.

Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson – Nothing in addition to her submitted report.

Fire Department

Chief Schewe – Interviewed a new employee prospect and sent them for proper testing. Should have his acceptance of the offer back soon. The FD has 20 Part-time positions, and 18 of those are now filled.

Police Department

Captain Griffin – Wrapped up the first self-defense class. Another one will start this summer. It was a great turnout, and we have dozens on the waiting list for the next one. Officer Capps is about halfway through the academy.

Public Works

Director Jeff Bethell – The water main project at Hazelwood and Elder is being wrapped up. They have to move a hydrant(turn it) for the fire dept. Construction on the road will start in July; Residents have been notified. Bids will be going out for the salt storage site soon. CAO Bailey included the final project unveiling in her report on the Regional Trails Plan of NKY. It is available now to view, and feedback and/or comments are being accepted. The trails will go through Fort Wright and along Madison and Banklick Creeks. Council asked whether the trails would be paved; COA confirmed they would not. Councilwoman Witt asked if the curb repair on Pickett was still being done; Jeff replied He has reached out to Riegler and has not heard anything back yet.

Legal – None

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council was informed that the Schott Monument donated the engraving of new bricks for the Veterans Memorial. Residents wishing to have a name added to the brick monument were encouraged to contact the City. Announcements were made regarding upcoming community events, including the Community Yard Sale scheduled for May 8th–9th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and a plant swap at the City Building on May 15th–16th. The annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on May 25th. Lois McClure sent a message thanking the city for keeping the community special in response to the most recent Top of the Hill newsletter. The mayor advised that residents who are not receiving the monthly newsletter should sign up.

Mary Hansen expressed excitement regarding the new playground on Kennedy and thanked the City for its hard work on the project. Council also discussed the “Field of Flags” display, featuring more than 600 flags at the City Building in partnership with NorthKey. The display was created in honor of America’s 250th anniversary and will remain in place throughout the remainder of the year.

The Police Department announced it will host a scam prevention program on May 26th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with attendance limited to 30 participants. Residents were asked to call in advance to register. Additionally, the Hoxworth Blood Drive is scheduled for June 18th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CAO Bailey provided an update on the banner project, noting that permits are currently being pursued through Duke Energy. Additional cost information is expected at the next meeting. The CAO also reported that work is ongoing with NKADD on a salary survey and that preparation of the City budget is underway.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council expressed appreciation to PDS for its cleanup efforts on April 17th, during which 15 bags of trash were collected from the Banklick Creek area. An additional City-wide cleanup event was held on April 18th with 18 volunteers participating over a two-hour period, resulting in the collection of 76 bags of trash. Council thanked all volunteers who participated in both events.

It was also noted that a student from Covington Catholic High School received recognition for finding the “most interesting item” during the cleanup, which was identified as a yearbook from Woodfill Elementary School. The Mayor reminded residents that this is the time of year when the City receives complaints regarding high grass and weeds. Council reviewed the ordinance requiring grass to be maintained at no more than 10 inches in height. The Mayor also outlined the enforcement process, including notification procedures, and encouraged residents to contact the City if issues or concerns arise.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


None

With nothing further on the agenda, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Wessels made a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

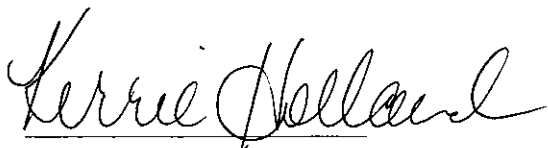
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kerrie Holland, City Clerk