



# City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | [www.fortwrightky.gov](http://www.fortwrightky.gov) | 859.331.1700

## Fort Wright City Council Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2025

6:00 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Dave Hatter, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Kerrie Holland, City Clerk called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Not Present
Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also present were CAO Jill Cain Bailey, City Attorney John S. Brooking, Chief of Police Jonathan Colwell, Fire Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ryan Longshore – 129 Kennedy Road inquired if there was going to be a committee formed to address the future plans for the Ft Wright Civic Club. He stated he would like to see a park put in place, if possible. Mayor stated that as of now, there are no specific plans, but an Ordinance will be signed to have the building demolished in the near future. He suggested that Mr. Longshore stay aware of the future meetings as more info comes.

### APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes from the April 2, 2025 City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, with no further discussion, Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilwoman Witt made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Not Present
Mr. Jason Collins	YES

Mr. Scott Wall            YES  
Mr. Jay Weber            YES  
Mr. Bernie Wessels       YES  
Ms. Margie Witt           YES

**MOTION PASSES**

#### Minutes from the April 16, 2025 Caucus Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, with no further discussion, Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilman Wessels made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln           Not Present  
Mr. Jason Collins        YES  
Mr. Scott Wall            YES  
Mr. Jay Weber            YES  
Mr. Bernie Wessels       YES  
Ms. Margie Witt           YES

**MOTION PASSES**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### Ordinance 04-25 regarding Hotel Registry Requirements

City Attorney Brooking reads the first reading of Ordinance 04-2025 aloud. Mayor asks for a motion to approve first reading, Councilman Weber makes a motion, and Councilman Collins made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln           Not Present  
Mr. Jason Collins        YES  
Mr. Scott Wall            YES  
Mr. Jay Weber            YES  
Mr. Bernie Wessels       YES  
Ms. Margie Witt           YES

**MOTION PASSES**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Resolution 01-2025 regarding the 25/26 Municipal Road Aid Agreement

Mayor explains that there is a gasoline tax implemented and is distributed to cities, that money is allocated to fixing the roads in Fort Wright. The resolution must be presented each year for the city to accept that money. CAO Bailey adds that the amount to be received this is \$136,782.61. She stated that the amount is a little higher than what we have received in the past. City Attorney Brooking reads the Resolution 01-2025 aloud. Mayor asks for a motion to approve, and Councilman Wessels makes a motion, and Councilwoman Witt made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Not Present
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

**MOTION PASSES**

Municipal Order 04-2025 regarding demolition of building at 115 Kennedy (AKA Fort Wright Civic Club)

Mayor states that the City took over ownership after paying off the taxes from the Civic Club board. The building has been cleared out of all property and is vacant and just sitting there in a decrepit state and is continuing to get worse. City engineers did a study on the property to determine what would need to be done to correct the issues and how much it would cost. They determined it would be a substantial amount of money to attempt to turn the building into anything usable. The city is now facing issues in regard to the safety of the building as it leaks, and mold is present inside of the building. The roof is also a major concern with people being able to fall through if they were to access the roof from the backside, which is fairly easy to do. It was concluded that the best answer was to tear the building down until it was decided what to put on the property. CAO Bailey added that she is required to present a document that certifies there is an emergency that exists and confirms what the engineering report states. Councilman Weber adds that the City is saving some of the historical aspects of the Civic Club. City Attorney reads the Municipal Order aloud. Mayor asks for a motion to approve the Municipal Order 04-2025. Councilwoman Witt asks if there was a time frame for the demolition to occur. CAO Bailey said she does not have a time and stated that she has received a proposal from one company and we are still waiting for another to come back. It was just authorized today for Rainbow Environmental Services to conduct the Asbestos survey that is required. Councilman Collins made a motion to approve. Councilman Weber made the second. Ms. Holland called the roll. Mayor comments that he is also sad to see the building being torn down.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Not Present
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

**MOTION PASSES**

Ordinance 05-2025 increasing the succeeding elected officials pay in Jan 2027

City Attorney Brooking reads the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance aloud. CAO Bailey stated the new amount would bring the Mayor's salary to \$8,000 per calendar year and Council members salary to \$3,300 per calendar year. This is also subject to the Cost-of-Living increases as identified by the Department of Local Government annually. CAO Bailey added there was a Salary Survey

conducted by the NKADD on behalf of the NKY City/County Management Association with 24 communities participating and it was found that the average salary for Mayor was \$12,923 and for Council it was \$4,751 per year. Mayor adds that the Ky Department of Government sets the guidelines for the salaries. Mayor Asks for a motion to approve. Councilman Collins made a first and Councilman Wall made a second. Councilwoman Witt added that there is a tremendous amount of work that goes into being the Mayor and she appreciates the hard work that he puts into being the position. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Not Present
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

**MOTION PASSES**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Community Improvement Committee:**

Nothing to report.

### **Finance committee:**

Councilman Weber reports that Jill has been working on the budget for the upcoming year.

## **CAO REPORT**

It is budget time and council will be receiving budget documents and information pertaining to the upcoming budget.

We are also bidding for the waste and recycling services. They are due May 12, 2025.

Security cameras installation is complete. Thank you to Jeff for facilitating the project.

Councilman weber asks CAO Bailey if a request for roof bids have been sent out yet-CAO confirms that they have not been sent out yet – after the budget is the proposed time frame.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**City Clerk** – Working on delinquent tax letters, every month they decrease in numbers. Completed all FEMA/ICS trainings

**Finance Clerk** – Working on BOA COE hours, completed our 1<sup>st</sup> Passport inspection – all went very well, finished online Excel training. Councilman Wessell asks a question about delinquent taxes - \$23,000 approx owed. Brook is ready to send final letter to delinquent accounts.

**Fire Department** - Chief Schewe is still in fact-finding process of obtaining quotes for ambulances and time frame to get one made. As of now, it appears to be 900+ days. Councilman Collins asks

lawn mower being lithium battery powered and the potential of catching fire. He asked if Chief Schewe could possibly get something out to the residents about these.

**Police Department** – Chief Jonathan Colwell Sgt. Vonhandorf graduated from the Academy of Police Supervision; it's a course that consists of a 120 hours of instruction time. Congratulations to Sgt. Nick Vonhandorf. Completed Police locker room renovation today. Thank you to Jeff Bethell his team for helping out with the majority of the work. Speed trailer for East direction of Kyles was submitted. Due to a complaint on W Henry Clay, the speed trailer was placed there, and Chief Colwell did not find anything in the report that showed any speeding.

**Public Works** - Jeff Bethell, PW Director - Water District begun work on General Drive – project going smooth. After the completion of General, they are heading to Pickett Drive. Repaving operations start this summer. Crack seal program will commence soon, they started in the fall 2024, but the weather we had put them behind, so they continued this Spring. They have a couple streets still left to do. Valley Plaza is one of those streets and they are planning to complete that project at night, starting at the beginning of June. Councilman Weber asked if the city is planning to add more streets to the Crack Seal program, director Bethell replied that yes, he has been in contact to get a list together for the summer. Councilman Wessels asks Jeff about the process of property that is in code violations for grass height. Jeff explained the process and how PW handles the properties.

Mayor Hatter explains the City's process on grass abatement-Unless it is extremely cost prohibited, to contract the mowing out so the City's other responsibilities do not fall through the cracks due to us having to continually mowing grass. Grass must be 10" or higher in order to be in violation. Residents report the violation, PW will come check the property, then if needed refer to PDS for code violation process. The owner has 7 days to appeal or abate the citation. If they do not respond, the city can go in and cut the grass and the property will be billed.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Community Yard Sale** – Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00am-2:pm, need to complete application – City will list your house as participating.

**Plant Swap** – Friday, May 16 & Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday from 6-8pm; Saturday from 9:00am-2:00pm, Money made used to beautify the City. To Be held in the Fire Bay.

**Memorial day 2025** – Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to be held in front of Admin Bldg. Guest Speaker will be Gold Star Mother of Daniel Lee, Ms. Frances Lee

**Professional Municipal Clerks Weeks** – Thank you to Kerrie Holland, City Clerk and Nyoka Johnson, Finance Clerk.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Margie Witt – Thank you to the volunteers for Spring Clean-up – We had 18 volunteers – Thank you to everyone who participated.

Mayor Hatter – He received a question in regard to hearing any further information about sound barriers. Mayor wanted to clarify what he had stated. He had an email from KYTC, Stacy Hans sent email they were going to go out and residents about the need/want for sound barriers. Steve Wells, Fort Wright resident, commented that he had spoken to residents and everyone on the ZOOM call was in favor of the sound barrier wall. The wall will be Max Height will be 24', where the noise was determined to be the most decibels.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wessels made a motion, and Councilman Collins made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.


Mr. Dave Abeln	Not Present
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

**MOTION PASSES**

**Meeting officially adjourned at 6:55p.m.**

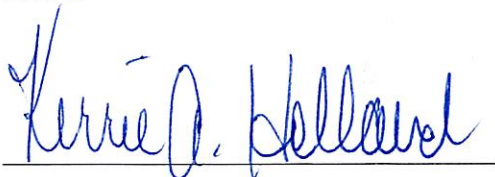
**Next City Council is scheduled for June 4, 2025 @ 6:00p.m. – City Admin Building**

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk