



City of Fort Wright Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Mayor Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Kyle Winslow
Police Chief Marc Schworer
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Susan Ellis

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Whitney O'Neal of 9 Glazier Road addressed council regarding a neighbor's Rottweiler/Doberman mix dog that keeps getting out of the neighbor's yard. On May 6, 2019 it attacked her 120-pound German Shepherd and then attacked and killed her cat in her front yard. Since that time, the dog has gotten out and jumped another neighbor's 5-foot privacy fence. She reported that the dog is still getting out and terrorizing the neighborhood. She has contacted Animal Control but was not given any useful advice. She stated that she is afraid to be in her own front yard. She expressed the need for a dangerous dog ordinance.

Mayor Hatter expressed his sympathy for her loss. He stated that it does not make sense that animals running wild can kill other people's pets. Councilman Hoerlein commented that if a

dog is deemed as vicious, Animal Control has ability to take vicious animals. Ms. Bailey state that she wrote the policy in Taylor Mill and that the concern is in identifying viciousness. Kenton County is in process of restructuring and rolling out new policy. Mr. Bethell stated that in the nuisance code a pet is not allowed to run at large. Attorney Kyle Winslow commented that this was a civil case and that Kenton County Courts are too busy with person to person violence to be concerned with animal to animal violence. Mayor Hatter expressed the need for the City to reach out to the County to understand what they are doing and to revisit the City Ordinances. Police Chief Schworer provided Ms. O'Neal with his card and asked her to email him. He said that he would talk to the owner again as well as the dog warden. He told her that every time she sees the dog loose she should call the police.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilman Hoerlein made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Abstain	
Councilman Feinauer	Yes	
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Wessels	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2019 Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Feinauer	Abstain	
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Wessels	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ambulance Bids - Request to Award Contract

Fire Chief Steve Schewe reported that 6 bids were received but one came in late, so it was not considered. He recommended selecting the bid from Specialty Truck for a Horton Ambulance. The price will be less than \$236,000. Production time will be 180 days after the delivery of the chassis.

Councilman Wessels made a motion under recommendation of Fire Chief Steve Schewe to accept the bid from Specialty Truck for a Horton Ambulance not to exceed \$236,000. Councilman Abeln made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1st Reading of Ordinance 05-19 adopting FY 19/20 Waste Collection/Recycling Rates

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Ordinance.

This is a pass-through amount to Rumpke of \$183.00 per waste unit annually which will be billed on the 2019 property tax bills.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilman Wessels made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Abstain
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

1st Reading of Ordinance 06-19 Sidewalk Waiver (Resurrection Church, Inc)

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Ordinance.

Councilman Feinauer inquired as to what would happen when that area gets developed asking if the City would have to put in sidewalks. Ms. Bailey responded that yes, the City would need to assume the cost. It would be unlikely that sidewalks would be feasible in this area.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

1st Reading of Ordinance 07-19 Permitted Uses in the HOC Zone

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Ordinance.

This ordinance is a formality and follow up to previous discussions.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilman Abeln made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

1st Reading of Ordinance 08-19 Budget Adoption for FY 19-20

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Ordinance.

Mayor Hatter thanked Ms. Bailey and the Department Heads for the efforts on the budget. Zero based budgeting is being implemented this year, so the departments are starting from scratch instead of just adding to the previous year's numbers. Reporting will be restructured and more transparent. A 14th position in Police Department and a full-time position in the Administration Department have been authorized. The budget is projecting \$200,000 surplus. The City is in excellent financial condition and is debt free.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilman Hoerlein made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 04-19 Municipal Road Aid Cooperate Agreement

City Attorney Kyle Winslow read the Resolution.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Witt made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Employee Attendance & Leave Policy (Vacation)

Mayor Hatter reported that the employee attendance and leave policy, which was altered in 2017, is causing issues where employees are losing vacation time. This change was not necessarily the best solution. He expressed the need to demonstrate a good faith effort to the employees that the City hears them and does not want to penalize them. Longer term employees are being affected the most.

Councilman Wessels expressed his concerns and stated that he would like to investigate this a bit more rather than adopt something this evening. More time is needed to explore this.

Councilman Wessels left the meeting at 6:56 PM.

Mayor Hatter stated that Ms. Bailey has done a lot of research and that the council needs to start a conversation this evening even if no action is taken.

Ms. Bailey indicated that she would like to implement the change at the start of a fiscal year. She felt the main factor was that employees are losing vacation on a monthly basis. Referring to the current policy and the previous policy, she stated that the policy does not allow for vacation time to expire. Employees can bank vacation and can continue to accrue vacation. The banked hours are done so at a lower rate. There is also an issue with payroll system in that it has supervisors approving time that has not yet been accrued. There is also no probationary period for new employees. Her proposal was to allow no vacation for first 6 months. She also wanted to limit the vacation payout provision to only employees who retire not terminate. Vacation times would be allocated at the first of fiscal year and would need to be taken by the end of the fiscal year.

Handling transition between the current policy to the new policy also presents challenges. The following options were presented:

- Ms. Bailey presented to allow employees to continue accrue until June 30, 2019. Bank the hours and track them separately. Employees could retain those days and use them for vacation, but they would not be eligible for payout. A new allocation would be issued on July 1, 2019.
- Mayor Hatter presented that Councilman Wessels offered the idea where there would be payout for vacation hours accrued and then start over with a new allocation.

Mayor Hatter stated that the City wants to provide the best benefits it can. This policy is causing a lot of concerns. The new proposal may not be perfect, but it can be changed in future. He recommended analyzing what has been proposed and revisit it at a Special Meeting in two weeks. He questioned if there was something that could be done to compensate Officer Bellau who had been unable to take vacation while in training as she seemed the most wronged in the current policy.

City Attorney Services – Letter of Engagement Agreement/Fees

Mr. Winslow commented that this was a resolution to change the fee structure

Councilman Hoerlein made a motion to approve the engagement agreement and fee structure for attorney services through Hemmer DeFrank Wessels, PLLC. Councilman Feinauer made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

CAO REPORT

City Administrative Officer Jill Cain Bailey referred to written report stating that the budget has been a big focus along with the vacation issue. She thanked everyone who came out for Memorial Day service.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance - City Clerk Susan Ellis referred to her written report in the council packet.

Fire/EMS Department - Fire Chief Steve Schewe reported that there would be a table top at Covington Catholic to implement a plan for the schools. It will work the same for Notre Dame and St. Agnes.

Legal Counsel - City Attorney Kyle Winslow did not have any updates.

Police Department - Police Chief Marc Schworer reported that there would be an Active Shooter and Crime Prevention class on June 26, 2019 and a Women's Self Defense class on July 24, 2019 and July 31, 2019. Officer Nichols will graduate on June 27, 2019. Chief Schworer has received applications from 6 certified and 18 non-certified individuals.

Public Works - Public Works Director Jeff Bethell reported that they have been wowing, weed eating, and trimming the right of ways. He thanked the Campbell County Judge Executive and Jailer who made it possible to use prisoners to assist with the work stating that Kenton County does not have anyone that can help out.

The water main is in at Pieck drive but needs to be tested. Next week the will be working on Henry Clay Avenue and then tying in services.

Paperwork from the state has not been received regarding the Amsterdam Road Project. They are waiting to hear from Cincinnati Bell. Amsterdam Road will be closed in Park Hills sometime in July for approximately six months to realign the road. This will impact Fort Wright residents as well.

Bids were received for this year's street projects with Riegler being the low bid. CT Consultants is recommending awarding the bid to Riegler who has done repaving in previous years.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the Mayor to enter into a contract with Riegler pursuant to the bid. Councilwoman Hoerlein made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Testing is taking place on Valley Drive in preparation for piercing. Dirt is slipping on Fort Henry Drive where is has been pierced. As long as the wall is not slipping, everything is ok.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank Yous

- Thank you from Little Links to the Police and Fire Departments for visiting
- Thank you from Linda May for the Fort Wright afghan that was given to volunteers

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Scott Wall – no report

Councilman Mike Hoerlein expressed his thanks for flowers sent to his family for father's funeral.

Councilman Dave Abeln – no report

Councilman Adam Feinauer thanked Public Works and the Police and Fire Departments for all their work behind the scenes for the Memorial Day Service. He reminded everyone that tomorrow is the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and told everyone to have a great summer.

Councilwoman Margie Witt thanked the Police Department for doing vacation checks.

OTHER COMMENTS

Mayor Hatter reminded everyone that the scheduled Council Meeting on July 3, 2019 has been moved to July 17, 2019. There will be no caucus meeting that evening.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Abeln made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Hoerlein	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:


Susan Ellis, City Clerk