



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting Wednesday, June 17, 2020 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Justin Whittaker
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hatter said the Finance Committee is prepared to recommend Council approve the budget as proposed. He said there had been no significant questions leading up to this meeting and turned it over to the Finance Committee for thoughts and comments.

Councilman Wessels addressed Council and started by saying that the last meeting brought up some items, including meeting with Chief Butler regarding salary adjustments and additional needs. He said some money will be used from the reserves for safety equipment. Councilman Weber said the budget typically includes allocation for 1.5 police cars per year, but they have increased that to two cars because of high mileage.

Councilman Wessels continued by saying there are some items in the budget that have not been used in the past but are not changed. He said the road money is all accounted for. He also reminded Council

that the Finance Committee reviewed the top 25 revenue producing businesses in the City and they felt comfortable that they will not lose too much revenue. He said he thinks the City is in good financial shape, even with the pandemic and some unknowns that could come and has a good reserve tank. Councilman Weber said the one item they are unsure of is the handling of funds because of changes to the law this year for reporting. He said money will be coming, but it will be delayed. Councilman Wessels said in the next meeting they will discuss the financial investment piece, which also played a role in the budget.

Mayor Hatter thanked the Finance Committee for their discussion and preparation. He said the final review meeting lasted over three hours and Councilman Weber and Councilman Wessels both put an enormous amount of time into the budget. He said the City is in excellent financial condition, despite the pandemic and including some unknowns and funding delays. He said the City is also expecting approximately \$400,000 in reimbursement for CoViD-19-related expenses. Mayor Hatter said even without that reimbursement, the city should be running a substantial surplus, which has been the trend for a long time. He said the excess or reserve is currently generating no additional money, and the Finance Committee has also been working on meeting with various investors around practices, procedures, and policies to find a good partner to work with to generate additional return.

Councilman Feinauer said, after reviewing the budget, everything looked just as they explained it. Councilman Abeln said he appreciates the efforts of the Finance Committee. He said he is glad they took the recommendations from Van Gorder, Walker & Co. to implement certain things each year to have the audit come back better and better. He said he thinks changing auditing firms helped for a new perspective and he applauded the committee's efforts.

Councilman Weber said Ms. Bailey changed the format of the budget a bit to make it better. He also commented that having the same format throughout all the sections helps with the flow. Mayor Hatter said moving to a zero-based budget, essentially starting at zero and justifying why money is spent. Councilman Abeln said he appreciates the change in philosophy to help the City's finances. Councilman Wessels said it is hard to believe the City used to be \$2.5 million in debt and is now working with \$8 million.

Councilman Weber said the Finance Committee recommends passing the budget as presented.

Ms. Bailey reminded Council that there was also the budget amendment to pass.

Ordinance 02-2020

A motion was made by Councilman Weber to approve Ordinance 02-2020, an appropriations ordinance amending the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky, annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Councilman Wessels made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Bailey said she wanted to point out that the budget amendment was prepared on where the City was at two weeks ago and since then the City has received an additional \$226,000 in revenue. She said this means the City has exceeded the budgeted number for revenue, and there is now a \$501,000 surplus budgeted as a result.

Ordinance 03-2020

A motion was made by Councilman Wessels to approve Ordinance 03-2020, an appropriations ordinance adopting the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Councilman Weber made a second.

Councilwoman Witt requested clarification on a line item regarding occupational license income. Ms. Bailey advised the change was for reallocation for historical accuracy and not because the funding has been lost.

City Clerk Maura Russell called roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance 04-2020

Ms. Bailey reported that Ordinance 04-2020 was not available yet. and would be available at the next Council meeting. Mayor Hatter tabled Ordinance 04-2020 until the next regular meeting.

Ms. Bailey announced that this is the last year of the three-year auditing contract with Van Gorder, Walker, & Co. for auditing services. She said the audit is already scheduled for August 31 to September 2. Ms. Bailey also said that the City is filing for CoViD-19 reimbursements totaling \$412,000, which will be submitted next week. She also said there is a need for a majority of Councilmembers to meet for a second Special Council Meeting prior to July 1 to finalize the two budget ordinances that had the first reading this evening.

Mayor Hatter confirmed that the City has used Van Gorder, Walker for the last three years for auditing services and a decision will need to be made if the City wants to continue working with them or find a new firm. He said his opinion is they have done a good job and had good insight. He said he is not necessarily interested in switching, but in the past the City had a long-term contract with a different firm and did not get great insight. Councilman Wessels said he is pleased with what the firm does, and they are very thorough. Mayor Hatter said a decision will need to be made to move forward.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Councilwoman Feinauer made a motion to adjourn the Special Council Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell, City Clerk