



**City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2019 6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 PM by Mayor Hatter following the conclusion of the Special Meeting.

The following council members were present for the meeting:

Councilman Abeln	Here
Councilman Feinauer	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 Sergeant Jonathan Colwell
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Susan Ellis

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Adam Feinauer, Sr., reported that he had attended the most recent KRS meeting. There has been no mention of CERS totally separating from KRS.

Councilman Wessels commented that on the funding side, government appointees made projections using false projections.

Mayor Hatter commented regarding the estimated high returns, that people are living longer. He referred to the KERS "death spiral" in that they raise rates and then contributing organizations reduce the number of employees which results in the loss of contributions. He also referred to a PowerPoint presentation that he said he would distribute to council.

Councilman Wall asked if anyone had considered the option of raising sales taxes. If the sales tax were raised 1% it would result in \$600 million which is only a small portion of the \$40 billion of what is needed.

Mr. Feinauer, Sr. brought up hedge funds, saying fees were paid when they should not have been. Councilman Wall added that they were not following guidelines for investments. Councilman Feinauer commented that there is now more financial experience on the board.

Mayor Hatter commented that it is now possible to watch their meetings. He also questioned why quasi government agencies have relief but others do not. He concluded stating that the legislature is the only option to change.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Welcome to City of Fort Wright Signs

Ms. Bailey provided history. This item was sent to the Community Improvement Committee who recommended the signs not be replaced. The cost would be \$10,000 for replacement. The smaller signs were discussed but it was determined to just remove them and put the money into a bigger sign at the expressway. The original signs were estimated to have been installed in the 90s. Mayor Hatter commented that he would like to see some sort of signs and that they did not need to be as elaborate. Councilwoman Witt commented that instead of 11 randomly placed signs, to consider 5-6 better placed signs. More prominent gateway signs, possibly brick or stone monument style, were preferred. Mayor Hatter expressed his preference for more signs rather than less, with common branding. A reasonable budget in the next budget year would need to be determined for planning. It was suggested \$10,000 around town and then \$100,000 for gateway signage in next budget year. Mr. Bethell recommended the use of a landscape architect for planning. Ms. Bailey commented that the plan would need to be submitted to the state. Further discussion included the preference for cohesive branding with the gateway plans and the possibility of corporate sponsorship for the signs.

Parking – Fort Henry/Bunker (Fire Lane Switch)

Ms. Bailey reviewed the parking at that intersection. Chief Schworer had recommended switching the fire lane from one side to other. This would eliminate the issue completely. There have been an increasing number of complaints. Signage would be needed regarding the new traffic pattern, as well as letter and email notifications. The following actions would be needed:

- Have City Engineer Mark Brueggemann look at the issue and have a report for the next council meeting.
- Develop a traffic and parking schedule for the code and adopt by ordinance.
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Zoning Code Text Amendment Concerning Setback for Sheds

Ms. Bailey reported that Mr. Harry Geimeier from the Board of Adjustment had presented this at a previous Caucus Meeting. As a result, Mayor Hatter directed that a text amendment be filed. This amendment eliminates the setback requirement. Councilman Wessels talked with Mr. Tom Litzler who is also a member of the Board of Adjustment. Both agreed that there had not been that many appeals over the last 5 years. Councilman Wessels expressed his concern

that considering trying to make the City more attractive and appealing, this change would allow every property along the gateway to place a shed right along that line. He stated that corner lots present issues and that there was nothing included about maintenance and upkeep. Ms. Bailey reported that the text amendment had been tabled at the planning commission. Council agreed to let the text amendment die or to withdraw it and leave the regulation as is.

Mayor Hatter suggested a future item for discussion. Because of a tree limb falling and crushing a fence, a \$200 permit was required to replace the fence exactly the same as it was. He requested that Council revisit this at a later date.

Employee Attendance & Leave Policy (Vacation)

Mayor Hatter along with Ms. Bailey developed a new proposal based upon discussion at a previous meeting. This new proposal provides clarification and no longer allows time to be banked indefinitely. The same amount of times would be awarded, but probationary periods for new employees would be added. For full time employees, leave would be allocated July 1 based upon years of service. A new hire would be on probation for a 6-month period and not allowed to take vacation during that time unless there were unique circumstances. If leave was not used during that fiscal year, there would be no carry over. If an employee retired or resigned, they would be compensated for time acquired. Leave would be requested through the supervisor. To make the transition from the old system to the new system, a one-time payout of approximately \$69,000 would be needed to compensate employees for the time they had accrued.

Discussion included the following:

- Pay in lieu of vacation
- How vacation will be allocated
- Transition payout
- Use it or lose it
- Concern for employees who cannot take vacation
- Prorating payout for those retiring or
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A special meeting will be scheduled for a vote on the finalized policy.

Ongoing 'Project & Issues' List Review.

Damaged Guardrail – Ms. Bailey reported that there had been an accident where someone hit a guardrail. A claim will be filed against the insurance company to recover the cost to repair the guardrail.

Water Issues – Mayor Hatter reported that had been several calls after the recent heavy rains. He stated that this is a private issue and not a City issue and that residents should call SD1.

Don Martin Drive – Ms. Bailey reported that the new president of homeowners' organization had met with Mr. Brueggemann and Mr. Bethell. They have collected \$6600 from each resident

except for two and are pursuing that. The cost for the project is \$140,000 but they only have \$112,000. They are waiting for ingress/egress permits from the state. Construction costs have increased. Ms. Bailey told them that she would revisit the with council. She recommended that they get 3 bids and suggested the possibility of potential of cost savings if this was bid in the winter. She said that ultimately, they may be coming back to ask for more money from the City. Mayor Hatter stated that this is unfortunate, but it is a private property issue.

Tree issue – Ms. Bailey reported that a tree on Park Road fell. The Fire Department pushed it off the road and cut up. Public Works completed the clean up. As a result, Public Works also identified another dead tree that could fall and creating many issues, including hitting a power line. The tree is on the state right of way but not the city right of way. While this falls under the nuisance policy, the Ordinance requires a Nuisance Board for violation appeals. The City cannot send out or invoice violations without board and would need to create a board or change the ordinance. Mayor Hatter commented on the difficulty filling boards. It was suggested to use PDS code enforcement for this issue. Council agreed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Susan Ellis, City Clerk