



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwright.com | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting Wednesday, June 21, 2023 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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

Councilman Abeln	Present
Councilman Collins	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Present
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2nd Reading of Ordinance 05-2023 amending the FY22-23 Budget – Mr. Theissen completed a second reading of Ordinance 05-2023, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending Fort Wright Ordinance No. 05-2022 and the budget adopted thereby for the City of Fort Wright for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023.

Mayor Hatter thanked the Finance Committee and Ms. Bailey for their hard work on the budget, saying it is the most important thing the City does all year.

A motion was made by Councilman Weber to approve Ordinance 05-2023. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2nd Reading of Ordinance 06-2023 adopting the FY23-24 Budget – Mayor Hatter commented on the hard work of the Finance Committee and Ms. Bailey, saying there are a lot of rising expenses related to personnel and inflation, and they have done a good job balancing that with increasing property values and payroll tax income. He acknowledged that the City needs to be careful with spending as there are some concerning line-item increases.

Councilman Wessels added that the City is spending much more this year and next on roads, increasing to almost \$1 million each year, when normally the City spends around \$600,000. He also thanked Ms. Bailey and the department heads for their hard work.

There was discussion about remote work and the impact on local communities, with Mayor Hatter saying they will be keeping a close eye on changes.

Mr. Theissen completed the second reading of Ordinance 06-2023, an Appropriations Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, adopting the annual budget for the City of Fort Wright for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Wessels to approve Ordinance 06-2023. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2nd Reading of Ordinance 07-2023 adopting a Personnel Classification Plan – Mr. Theissen completed a second reading of Ordinance 07-2023, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, establishing non-elected offices of the City, and a plan of personnel classification and organization.

Mayor Hatter confirmed this Ordinance only authorizes the positions in each department and added that it is statutorily required in Kentucky.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Ordinance 07-2023. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2nd Reading of Ordinance 08-2023 re: Drive-Thru Restaurants Only – Mr. Theissen completed the second reading of Ordinance 08-2023, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending the Fort Wright Zoning Ordinance Title XV entitled Land Usage Code, Chapter 153 entitled Zoning, Section 153.01, and specifically Section 11.2 of the Fort Wright Zoning Ordinance,

entitled "Specific Off-Street Parking Requirement" adding a new standard for drive-thru only restaurants at one parking space for every 300 square feet of gross floor area.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Ordinance 08-2023. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

426 Morris – Code Enforcement Follow Up – Mayor Hatter said the City has had code enforcement issues with this property for a very long time. He said the property was unsecured and recently City employees were able to enter to see how bad it was and added that, for safety reasons, the City should move forward with foreclosure to remedy the matter.

Mr. Thiessen said the person who owned the property died a few years ago and the heir realized it had more debt than it was worth but then also died. He added that only mowing and boarding of the property has been done by the Public Works Department. Mr. Thiessen said the attorney understands that action must be taken for public safety reasons. Mayor Hatter added that it is only fair to the neighbors that the City act, because they have been dealing with this property for years and nothing good comes from an abandoned home.

It was noted that the Kenton County Joint Code Enforcement Board would be proceeding with their declaration of the property being uninhabitable.

It was discussed that the City's responsibility, if it ends up with the property, would be to secure the property and assess it for saving or demolition.

Councilman Collins made a motion to give Mr. Thiessen and City staff the authority to initiate foreclosure and act in concert with the Code Enforcement Board to declare 426 Morris Road uninhabitable and assess it for demolition or protecting the structure. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

CBT Proposed Equipment Room Lease Extension – Ms. Bailey said Cincinnati Bell is making progress in vacating the space in the Public Works Garage and she wants to obtain Council's approval on the lease agreement their attorneys shared.

Mr. Theissen said the original lease was with the Fort Wright Public Properties Corporation, which is dissolved, so the lease will need to be updated to remove that name. Ms. Bailey went through the sections of the lease with Council agreeing to section A, stating Cincinnati Bell will pay \$1,800 for the remainder of 2023.

After review of other sections, Council did not agree to Section B, an option to extend the lease for \$600 per month through June 2024, or Section C, giving Cincinnati Bell the option to renew monthly beyond June 2024 with no end date for \$18,000 per year. It was agreed that a hard deadline of December 31, 2023, needed to be given.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease agreement with Cincinnati Bell once the landlord is properly identified and Sections B and C are removed. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Special Council Meeting. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk