



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Dave Hatter called the Fort Wright City Council meeting to order in the City of Fort Wright Council Chambers at 6:01 P.M., Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/PRAYER:

Members of the City Council and citizens pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Finance Clerk, Nyoka Johnson, called the role. The following members of City Council were present:

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

The following members of City Council were not present:

Mr. Dave Abeln
Mr. Jason Collins

The Mayor announced that a quorum was present, allowing the council to proceed with the agenda.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS:

None

MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes from the May 7, 2025, City Council Meeting:

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the May 7, 2025, City Council Meeting. Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the minutes. A second was made by Councilwoman Witt. Ms. Johnson called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln
Mr. Jason Collins
Mr. Scott Wall
Mr. Jay Weber
Mr. Bernie Wessels
Ms. Margie Witt

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Minutes from the May 21, 2025, City Caucus Meeting:

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes from the May 21, 2025, City Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes. A second was made by Councilman Weber. Ms. Johnson called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	NOT PRESENT
Mr. Jason Collins	NOT PRESENT
Mr. Scott Wall	ABSTAIN
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

Three (3) ayes, one (1) abstain, no nays, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance 04-2025 regarding Hotel Registry Requirements:

Mayor Hatter asked CAO Jill Bailey if she had anything to add before the reading of the ordinance. CAO Bailey adds that in summary, the city has changed the requirements for two of the hotels in town in terms of tracking guest registration, and restrictions.

City Attorney Brooking read the second reading of Ordinance 04-2025, repealing Ordinance 1-04, and all amendments thereto, as well as all ordinances, regulations, codes and/or orders in conflict herewith, and adopting and approving new requirements for guest registration at hotels and motels located in the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the second reading. Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the second reading. A second was made by Councilman Wessels. Ms. Johnson called the role.

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

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Ordinance 05-2025 increasing succeeding elected officials pay:

CAO Jill Bailey gave a summary that a council member requested that we look at the compensation for the position of Mayor, and council members compared to what other communities are paying. Any salary changes will be for any incoming elected officials coming into office in January 2027.

City Attorney Brooking read the second reading of Ordinance 05-2025 adopting and approving the compensation of the succeeding Mayor and members of city council of the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky, effective as of the installation of the newly elected Mayor and members of City Council in January 2027. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the second reading.

Councilman Weber wanted to comment that the reason we are doing this is because Mayor Hatter spends a ton of time in this role. It's a token of appreciation for what he does.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the second reading. A second was made by Councilwoman Witt. Mayor Hatter thanks Councilman Weber for the compliment. Ms. Johnson called the role.

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

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Waste Collection and Recycling Services – Bid Acceptance:

CAO Jill Bailey reported that the current Rumpke contract, which was ultimately a six (6) contract when the renewals are included, had expired. The city was required to go out to bid for services this year. Ms. Bailey reported that Rumpke was the only bidder, which she recommends we approve this evening. The city also received a letter of no bid from both Best Way and Republic. However, the service provided by Rumpke has been exceptional.

The cost of the service did go up slightly. Currently they are billing us \$17.99 per collection unit per month. The new rate will go up to \$23.00 per collection unit per month. The city will have to increase the waste collection bill for the residents in a separate ordinance.

The bid for collection of solid waste is for a twenty-four (24) month period beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2027.

Councilman Weber asked CAO Bailey if the agreement was created by Rumpke or the city. CAO Bailey confirmed that the agreement was created by us. City Attorney John S. Brooking added that there were minor revisions to the prior contract.

Mayor Hatter commented that although we don't have other options, overall Rumpke has done a good job. It is a little disappointing that other waste collection services aren't working with us and placing bids.

CAO Bailey stated it is not a unique issue for Fort Wright; many other cities have this same issue.

Mayor Hatter proposes that we accept their bid at the stated numbers, assuming City Attorney Brooking has no issues with the final contract.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to accept the bid from Rumpke. A second was made by Councilwoman Witts. Ms. Johnson called the roll.

Mr. Dave Abeln	NOT PRESENT
Mr. Jason Collins	NOT PRESENT
Mr. Scott Wall	ABSTAIN
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

Three (3) ayes, one (1) abstain, no nays, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

SD1 Easement Request for Edna Lane Stormwater Improvement Project:

CAO Jill Bailey explained that SD1 is doing a major stormwater improvement on Edna Lane. As part of the project, they need two easements, a combination or temporary and permanent from the city. One is for a piece of property on Highland, and the other one is for Augusta. These documents were sent to the City Attorney, and the City Engineer for review. CAO Bailey recommends that the council doesn't take action until we have the final report from the City Engineer.

The council decided to table the motion to approve until the special meeting.

Ordinance 06-2025 Amending the Budget for FY 24-25:

CAO Jill Bailey stated that annually a budget amendment is required. This is done to include the projects authorized throughout the fiscal year, the audited fund balances, as well as additional changes needed. This allows the new budget numbers for the new fiscal year to be more accurate. There were no significant changes made.

Councilman Weber commented that some of this has to do with timing to things correctly. Everyone has spent a lot of time and effort on this. We have had perfect audits.

Mayor Hatter commented that we put a lot of demands on the staff to provide the best services we can, and they all do a great job. We continue to take an approach to estimate our expenses conservatively.

Councilman Wessels thanks CAO Jill Bailey, it's a tremendous amount of work.

CAO Bailey thanked the Department Heads for all their work and presented the budget.

City Attorney Brooking read the first reading of Ordinance 06-2025 amending Fort Wright Ordinance 06-2024, and the budget adopted thereby for the City of Fort Wright for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading. A second was made by Councilman Wessels. Ms. Johnson called the role.

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

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Ordinance 07-2025 Adopting a Budget for FY 25-26:

CAO Jill Bailey presented the budget and noted that it does not reflect any property taxes. Some items included in the budget were salary increases for staff, vacancy hours in the Fire Department, demoing the Fort Wright Civic Club, two police cruisers, increased expenses in utilities, and road salt.

Councilman Weber commented that due to ARPA funds, we were able to purchase equipment in the past. Going forward, an account was created to build funds for when those pieces of equipment need to be replaced in the future. Also, after talking to engineering departments, sealing more roads will lower the road replacement costs, which is also included in the budget.

Mayor Hatter thanked everyone for making this all possible. Also, thanks to working with Red Tree, an investment program, for helping us design something that protects the resident's money but also generates revenue.

City Attorney Brooking read the first reading of Ordinance 07-2025 adopting the annual budget for the City of Fort Wright for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading. A second was made by Councilman Wessels. Ms. Johnson called the role.

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

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Ordinance 08-2025 Adopting a Personnel Classification Plan:

CAO Jill Bailey explains that annually the city is required per state statute to adopt a Personnel Classification Plan. The ordinance establishes the position, salary ranges, and authorizes the number of people in each position.

City Attorney Brooking read the first reading of Ordinance 08-2025 establishing non-elected offices of the city, and a plan of personnel classification and organization. This ordinance would allow the city council to fix by this ordinance the number and classification of city employees, and their salaries for each classification, as required by KRS 90.380. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading. A second was made by Councilwoman Witt. Ms. Johnson called the role.

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

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee:

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee:

Nothing to report.

CAO Jill Bailey commented that the Board of Ethics met Monday, June 2, 2025. As part of their obligations, all of the financial disclosures were reviewed, and housekeeping items discussed. The board also selected Attorney Greg Voss to represent the board. The next meeting will be in October to meet the deadline for the annual report.

Mayor Hatter thanked the board members for being part of the Ethics Board. He also wanted to point out that due to the ethics ordinance, it prohibits the mayor and city council from commenting on social media. Anyone can email any concerns to the mayor or council for concerns.

CAO REPORT

Smoothie King leased space from the Shoppes of Fort Wright and is getting ready to do demo work in that location.

Periodically we are required to complete a Passport Facility Inspection. Ms. Nyoka Johnson serves as the Passport Manager and recently completed this inspection. The inspection went well and as a result we passed.

Kenton County Occupational Licensing sends out reports, and the city takes the time to review these, and encourages council to do the same. These reports are always supplied in meeting packets.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk – Not present.

Finance Clerk – Other than the normal duties, ongoing training, and delinquent taxes, I have been assisting with Kerrie's duties while she is out on vacation.

Fire Department -

Chief Schewe reported that the contracts for Kenton Vale and Park Hills for Fire/EMS services have been signed. The backup ambulance had some issues but got repaired. Thermal imaging cameras were replaced with grant funds.

Police Department -

Chief Colwell reported that a big change was the traffic pattern in front of the city building. There were a couple of collisions but not due to the new traffic pattern. Traffic stops were made that violated the new traffic pattern. A few months ago, the speed trailer was moved from Werner Drive, before the traffic pattern changed. It was moved back to see if the new pattern would give different results.

Public Works -

Public Works Director Jeff Bethell reported that the water main project on Pickett and General is ongoing. The Crack Seal Program for this past year is almost wrapped up.

Legal Counsel -

Nothing to report.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that there is an ordinance for tall grass. If there are any problems with properties in your neighborhood, please reach out. Also, the city has a promotional video to view, share, and get the word out about the community.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

AJOURNMENT

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

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

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

The next City Council Meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. in the City of Fort Wright Council Chambers.

Attest:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Nyoka Johnson, the Finance Clerk.

Nyoka Johnson, Finance Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Dave Hatter, the Mayor.

Dave Hatter, Mayor