



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, July 21, 2021 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus 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 Administrative Officer Jill Bailey called the roll.

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| Councilman Abeln | Present |
| Councilman Feinauer | Absent |
| Councilman Wall | Present |
| Councilman Weber | Present |
| Councilman Wessels | Present |
| Councilwoman Witt | Present |

Also present for the meeting were:

City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Tom Litzler – 505 Beaumont – Mr. Litzler addressed Council, saying he sent an email regarding the insurance premium tax a couple months ago, suggesting reducing or eliminating the tax as it is not transparent for homeowners in the City. He said he wants to change his recommendation based on additional research he has done on the way Kenton County formats its insurance premium tax, as it appears they may take the difference if a municipality lowers its rate. Ms. Bailey said she has spoken with Joe Shriver, Kenton County Administrator, who said the rate for Kenton County is 8% on unincorporated areas only.

Mayor Hatter said he wants to do away with the insurance premium tax and offset it with an increase in property taxes, as that would be the most transparent way to assess homeowners. He said Council is working to get to the bottom of the impact on residents if the City moves forward with that plan. Councilman Wessels said this item is on the agenda for the upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

There was discussion about the differences in rates given by Kenton County and by local insurance agencies, as well as when the rates were increased most recently. There was also discussion about revenues being distributed by zip code, which could cause some funds to be due to the City that go elsewhere and vice versa because of zip code sharing. Ms. Bailey added that there has been work done in this area by the Kentucky Department Revenue, but it is difficult to track.

Mr. Litzler moved onto the TBNK [Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky] negotiations with Cincinnati Bell, saying the two parties have reached an agreement and cities should expect a model

ordinance to come soon after the upcoming public hearing. Mr. Litzler also said he was appointed to the negotiating committee for the Charter Communications agreement, and they will be recommending the same agreement as was just negotiated with Cincinnati Bell.

Mr. Litzler closed by mentioning a suggestion for the City to use expected American Rescue Plan Act funds to address the flooding that occurs with heavy rains at Mount Vernon and Beaumont. Mayor Hatter said there has been flooding all over the City because of the heavy rains, but the City is still trying to understand the restrictions on the funding, but that could be a worthwhile investment.

Mayor Hatter said there was a request to amend the agenda to include a discussion about food trucks. Councilman Weber made a motion to amend the agenda. Councilman Wessels made a second. Mayor Hatter called the roll.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5-Year Street Plan Update – Mayor Hatter gave credit to Council for their work over the last ten years to get equal representation on streets being repaired in the City. He said the second largest spending item for the City is the roads, behind salaries, and there is an established, quantifiable set of rules used to determine which street should be fixed and when. He applauded Council for not trying to influence this plan and being equitable with the resources. Mayor Hatter said that the City has spent \$8 million in ten years, and he believes that is the most any city of Fort Wright's size in the area has spent to maintain roads.

Mayor Hatter said the current five-year plan is being reevaluated, which happens approximately every two years, and Ms. Bailey presented a chart with streets and their ages. There was discussion about reconstruction versus resurfacing. Councilman Wessels said he thought the plan was to do some of each type of project each year, but the plan presented does not appear to be split. Mr. Bethell said Martin Hellman [Project Engineer, CT Consultants] was concerned that if some of the streets on the list resurfacing in 2022 were to be pushed back then they may require reconstruction as they will deteriorate.

There was discussion about concrete base with asphalt overlay, which currently exists in much of the City, versus full asphalt or full concrete. It was decided that the City would request Mr. Hellman or Mark Brueggemann [City Engineer] to attend an upcoming Council Meeting to discuss the street plan further, including the materials used, proposed five-year plan, and rating system.

Food Trucks – Mayor Hatter said the City has hosted food trucks for two years now and said Councilwoman Witt made a suggestion to move it around each week to a different location in the City.

He asked Council if they wanted to continue hosting food trucks at all. Ms. Bailey said vendors seem to be doing well this year, but last year, during the pandemic, it was a destination, and it is not picking up traction on social media or email like last year. Mayor Hatter added that he has no opinion on keeping or getting rid of the program, and he does want to provide options for residents but does not want to create additional work for staff.

Councilman Wessels expressed his opposition to the food trucks coming into the City, saying they are taking away from local businesses that already exist in Fort Wright. Councilwoman Witt suggested moving the food trucks to a location that has local businesses, to attract more people to those smaller businesses.

Ms. Bailey advised that the work for staff is minimal, but one of the things that helps is having it at the same place, at the same time each week. She said moving it around could cause confusion and suggested having it in a new place for a month to be sure people know it is there. She also said that would require more organization because of property ownership, special licensing from the Northern Kentucky Health Department, tables and tents to be purchased by the City or provided by the businesses, and food management issues, among other items.

There was discussion about food truck events at other cities in the area. It was confirmed that the remaining six dates will stay as-is at the City Administration Building, but the planning for next year will go to the Community Improvement Committee for discussion and review.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Weber – He asked about the drawings for the Interstate 71/75 project, saying he thinks the current plan for the Fort Wright exiting is terrible. Mayor Hatter proposed to ask Mr. Brueggemann to attend an upcoming Council Meeting to discuss the plan and the City's issues. Councilman Wessels suggested working with Fort Mitchell and other affected cities to discuss options.

Councilman Weber also asked Mr. Bethell about a missing signpost at Amsterdam Road and General Drive. Mr. Bethell said they are working to replenish their signposts and will have it installed soon.

Councilwoman Witt – She announced that the Community Improvement Committee will be back to their regular schedule, with the next meeting on August 11th. She also announced that she is working with Mr. Bethell to plan a second Fort Wright Clean Up Day in October.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

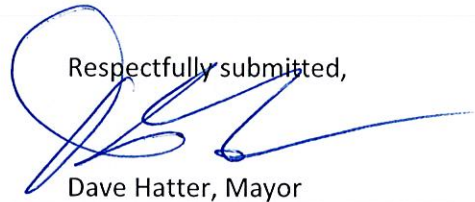
There being no further business, Councilman Wessels made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Bailey called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk