



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwrightky.gov | 859.331.1700

**City of Fort Wright
City Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was originally scheduled for July 1, 2026, but due to scheduling conflicts, it was postponed to July 15, 2026. Mayor Hatter called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of Silence. City Clerk Kerrie Holland called the roll.

Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Ms. Donna Ross	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also present were Mayor Hatter, City Administrator Jill Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Chief Jonathan Colwell, Fire Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, City Clerk Kerrie Holland, and Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

David Spaulding – Representative for the old Frisch's property at 20 Kyles Lane - wanted to let Council know that Frisch's has closed and will be moving to the Orphanage Road location soon. He stated that a new business was going in at the 20 Kyles Lane location, but would not elaborate on the name or nature of the business.

Mike Waugh - 2065 Anderson Rd. Crescent Springs, KY 41017; Appeared before Council to announce his intent to purchase a commercial building within the city for use as an athletic organization. The proposed facility would provide space for youth athletic training, practices, and related programming. The representative shared an overview of the property's intended use, discussed anticipated community benefits, and answered questions from Council. No formal action was requested or taken, as the presentation was provided for informational purposes only.

Jake Thamann – 12 Lake St., Fort Wright, KY 41011; Introduced himself as the new contact person for the St. Agnes Homecoming festival that is to be held in the fall of 2026. He asked for the continued support from the City of Fort Wright and thanked them for their past support of the festival. Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to continue support of the annual festival. With nothing further to discuss, Councilman Wessels made a motion; Councilwoman Witt seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

MINUTES

Minutes from the June 3, 2026 City Council Meeting

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. With no further discussion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Minutes from the June 17, 2026 City Special Meeting

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilwoman Witt seconded the motion. With no further discussion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Abstain
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Minutes from the June 17, 2026 Caucus Meeting

Councilwoman Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilman Wessels seconded the motion. With no further discussion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Abstain
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Hatter asked to move the Dixie Highway Development Agreement to the top of the agenda before the other items. Councilman Weber made a motion; Councilman Wessels seconded the motion.

ALL IN FAVOR – 6, OPPOSED – 0

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Dixie Highway Development Agreement(Wyler Group)

Council discussed the verbiage of the Dixie Highway Development. They agreed to have the Mayor enter into the agreement as is and accept the contract without any changes. Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve him entering into the agreement without changes. Councilman Weber made a motion; Councilman Wessels seconded the motion. With no future discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Banner Project

Council discussed the placement of banners at various light pole locations throughout the city. Council discussed the costs associated with installing patriotic vs non-patriotic banners on utility-owned light poles. Expenses include the purchase of banners, brackets and mounting hardware, utility permit and application fees, installation and removal by approved contractors (or the expense of the City's Public Works Dept doing it twice a year), and ongoing maintenance or replacement of damaged banners. Additional costs may include engineering review, traffic control during installation, storage, and required liability insurance. The total estimated cost of placing 33 banners throughout the city would be approximately \$15,000 to \$18,000. The council agreed the initial installation would occur in the Spring of 2027. With no further discussion, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the purchase and installation of banners. Councilman Weber made a motion, and Councilman Collins seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	No

MOTION CARRIED 5-1

1st Reading of Ordinance 06-2026 regarding installation of new stop signs

City Attorney John Brooking read Ordinance 06-2026 aloud. Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 06-2026. Councilman Weber made a motion; Councilman Wessels seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

Text Amendment Proposal Regulating the Use of Drones for Delivery

Council reviewed the proposed text amendment that would regulate commercial drone delivery operations. Staff explained the amendment establishes zoning regulations for drone delivery facilities while recognizing that the FAA retains authority over airspace regulations. Council discussed permitted locations, operational standards, setbacks, hours of operation, noise, privacy concerns, safety, and compatibility with surrounding properties. Additional discussion included screening requirements, designated takeoff and landing areas, and enforcement of the proposed regulations. Following the discussion, the Council requested revisions to the proposed language and directed staff and the City Attorney to incorporate the Council's recommendations before returning the amendment for further review at a future meeting. With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve CAO Bailey to send text amendments to PDS for review and change. Councilman Wessels made a motion; Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

CAO REPORT

CAO Bailey discussed the importance and the costs associated with an annual city audit. Council was asked to move to approve the audit cost of \$27,000. Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the agreement to proceed with the audit process

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration-NONE

Finance-NONE

Police Department-Officer Jared Capps completed his Academy training in Richmond and will graduate at the end of this month. He will move to third shift once his field training is complete.

Fire Department-

Public Works Director, Jeff Bethell, updated the council on the Salt Building project. Phase one is due to be completed in a couple of weeks, and phase two bids are due and will be opened on July 30, 2026, at 11:00 am. The addition of the salt storage building necessitates that the city purchase a backhoe to haul salt in and out of the building. Using the current backhoe would cause it to deteriorate, necessitating a replacement. PW Director, Jeff Bethell, submitted two options for a new backhoe: a 2014 John Deere with approximately 3,000 miles for \$47,500 & 2018 Case with approximately 6,000 miles listed for \$45,000, but will sell it to us for \$39,000.

The mayor asked the council to move to approve the purchase of a new backhoe, with the cost not to exceed \$50,000. Councilman Collins made a motion; Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. With nothing further to discuss, Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hatter formally announced CAO Jill Bailey's retirement. Her official last day will be August 31, 2026. She will be honored at the quarterly employee luncheon in August.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

With nothing further on the agenda, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Collins made a motion. Councilwoman Ross seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

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

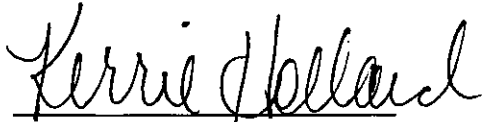
MOTION CARRIED 6-0

The meeting officially adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 5 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Dave Hatter

ATTEST:


Kerrie Holland, City Clerk