



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, August 5, 2020 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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

Councilman Abeln	Here
Councilman Feinauer	Here
Councilman Wall	Here
Councilman Weber	Here
Councilman Wessels	Here
Councilwoman Witt	Here

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Todd McMurtry
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell
City Engineer Martin Hellman

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, June 22, 2020. Councilman Feinauer made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter noted the number of people in attendance for this meeting and requested the agenda items be rearranged for optimal discussion. Councilwoman Witt made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the 1736 Monticello item after Resolution 12-2020. Councilman Weber made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 11-2020 – Recognizing Retiring Officer Aaron Arnsperger – City Attorney Todd McMurtry read the Resolution, recognizing Police Officer Aaron Arnsperger for his retirement from the Fort Wright Police Department effective July 31, 2020.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Resolution 11-2020. Councilman Feinauer made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 12-2020 – Disposition of a Firearm – Mr. McMurtry read the Resolution, disposing the service weapon Officer Arnsperger carried on duty, a Glock, Model 27, 40-caliber firearm with the serial number NGA530.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Resolution 12-2020. Councilman Weber made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter presented Officer Arnsperger with a few gifts, including an engraved plaque and the disposed firearm. The Mayor thanked him for his service, said he was sorry to see him go, and wished him a long and happy retirement. Councilman Weber told him he appreciated his service to Fort Wright. Councilman Wessels expressed his thanks on behalf of his family and his business. Mayor Hatter said Officer Arnsperger has been an important member of the team and the City will miss him.

Officer Arnsperger addressed Council and those in attendance, saying he has been in law enforcement for over 20 years and has had lots of ups and downs, great and crazy moments. He thanked many people, including retired Kentucky State Police Detectives Bob Scott and Mike Klein, Pat Morgan of the Kenton County Sheriff Department, and former Fort Wright Police Chiefs Mark Schworer and Dan Kreinest. Officer Arnsperger expressed appreciation for current Fort Wright Police Chief Ed Butler, as well as Sergeant George Kreutzjans, Sergeant Rob Griffin, and Captain Jonathan Colwell. He introduced his wife Anita, children, Brooke and Ally, and other family members.

1736 Monticello – Access Point off of Normandy (Todd Rudisell) – Mayor Hatter welcomed Mr. Todd Rudisell, 1736 Monticello Drive, to address Council and the attendees. Mr. Rudisell said he would like to defer to those who are opposed to the proposal to speak first as he was not aware that this was being brought before Council.

Mayor Hatter told those present that wished to address Council that they need to state their name and address at the podium. He said Mr. Rudisell wants to make improvements to his property and he is under the impression from the City Attorney and Public Works Director Mr. Jeff Bethell that there is nothing the City can do about a Board of Adjustments decision. Mr. McMurtry said a lot of time was spent on reviewing this issue and the existing ordinances of the City, as well as reviewing with PDS [Planning and Development Services of Northern Kentucky] what the City's position should be.

Mayor Hatter said the issue at hand tonight is if the City should allow PDS to grant a permit for Mr. Rudisell's property. City Administrator Jill Bailey said it was important to note that City Council cannot overturn the existing Board of Adjustments decision. She reiterated that appealing their decision could not be done at this meeting. Mr. McMurtry said that an appeal would require hiring an attorney within the 30-day appeal window with the Kenton County Circuit Court.

Mr. Rudisell addressed Council and those present, saying the Board of Adjustment hearing was for a variance to be approved. He said he is well within his rights as the property owner to have a garage built within existing guidelines, but he and his family asked for variance. He said that request was denied for a couple reasons and he feels the main reason for the denial is it is against the character of the neighborhood for the garage to be close to the street. He said they are willing to look at other options in their current space to be further away from 1747 Monticello Drive, even though the requested variance

is more than 25 feet from his residence. Mr. Rudisell said he is confused on why this issue is being brought up at this meeting.

Ms. Bailey said the results of the Board of Adjustments meeting brought several residents expressing concerns to the City Council and Administration. She said Mr. Rudisell is correct that he can still build a garage. The issue for the Council to decide is if it will grant curb cut access on Normandy so that the family can access the new garage from that street. She said there is not a process to approve this within the existing ordinances. Ms. Bailey said the concern is because of the debate at the Board of Adjustments meeting and the loss of one to two parking spaces on the street. She addressed Council directly, saying that, outside of granting the cut onto the City street, there is nothing for Council to decide or provide input on and this item on the agenda was to give residents an opportunity to speak directly to Councilmembers.

Mayor Hatter reminded attendees that Mr. McMurtry reviewed the regulations with PDS. He said PDS is does the enforcement for these issues, as they do for many cities in the area. He said the homeowner is within his rights to build the garage. Mr. McMurtry confirmed that information.

Councilman Wessels asked if this issue would warrant a review of current ordinances to be sure this is what Councilmembers want for future issues that could arise. He also asked the homeowner if there is a way to have the exterior façade of the to-be-built garage match his house or make some aesthetic changes to be more appealing to the neighbors and soften the blow. Mr. Rudisell said that they reviewed the cost of building the garage and brick exterior is one of the more expensive options. He said they also reviewed garage placement options and if they attached it to the house it would be brick to match the house. He continued by saying there is nothing in the guidelines that the exterior needs to be a certain material and he feels they have chosen one that would be pleasing to the neighborhood.

Councilman Wessels asked about architectural elements they have considered. Mr. Rudisell said they do plan to have windows and other elements to match the aesthetics of the current garage. He said they have hired an architect to produce drawings, which are in process.

Councilman Wessels then asked about the above-ground pool that was also in Mr. Rudisell's plans. Mr. Rudisell confirmed the pool will not be seen and they are taking care of that. He continued, saying he felt it was unfortunate that none of his neighbors spoke to him prior to the Board of Adjustments meeting. He said the plan is for a single car driveway, in which he plans to park, as well as trees and other landscaping to ensure it looks nice for themselves and their neighbors. He also said he tried to talk with a couple neighbors but that did not go as planned.

Councilman Weber asked about moving the garage to accommodate neighbor requests. Mr. Rudisell said he has been working with PDS and drawing site plans, and the current layout would allow for a slight shift. He said that any further changes, including moving the garage forward or attaching it to the house, would require another variance and he would have to pay for each request. Councilman Weber said he appreciated Mr. Rudisell being flexible and agreed with Councilman Wessels that understanding all options available may work out to be more friendly for the neighbors.

Mr. McMurtry suggested Mr. Rudisell go back to the Board of Adjustments with a plan that has support of the neighbors might be a win-win. Mayor Hatter commented that he is not sure if the City can waive fees to go back in front of the Board of Adjustments and he does not want to set a precedence of

waiving or asking the Board of Adjustments to waive fees. Ms. Bailey said PDS will not waive the fee to the City for review of new submissions, therefore the City would not be able to waive it either.

Mr. Rudisell said the only option coming out of the Board of Adjustments meeting was to table the issue, with the opposition being to the curb cut, not the look of the garage.

Mr. Nick Behymer of 525 Normandy Court addressed Council. He said he emailed a letter representing Normandy Court residents, which Council confirmed they received. He said from their standpoint, they understand the right to build the garage but expressed concern about the minimal parking on Normandy Court, with no on street parking except for that which fronts the Rudisell's property. He commented that no other resident on Normandy Court or Monticello Drive has more on-street parking than the Rudisells. He expressed concern that allowing the curb cut would take away two parking spaces, which would cause more residents to have to park further away from their homes. He reiterated that they understood the right to build the garage and offered an option of building it on the other side of the property to join with the existing driveway. There was additional discussion about how much curb the cut would take, how much space is required to park a car, and the amount of frontage of the Rudisell's property.

Mayor Hatter reminded attendees to go to the podium to address Council and that there is nothing legally council can do about this situation except deny the permit. He said if Council denied the permit, they would get sued and then have to spend City taxpayer dollars on legal defense. Ms. Bailey also reminded those wishing to speak that they need to state their name and address prior to addressing Council.

Joe Moffitt, 523 Normandy Court, asked if there is the potential to review the existing policy and table the issue while that occurs. Mr. McMurtry said you cannot change the law to apply to a current situation.

Mayor Hatter said he agrees with Councilman Wessels that a review needs to occur. He said he would not be happy to lose a parking space either, but this happens in lots of areas of the Fort Wright community. He reminded attendees that there is nothing Council or the City can do legally, morally, or ethically considering the current ordinances.

Jeff Fosco, 1739 Monticello Drive, addressed Council in support of the Rudisells. He said he has known the family for 10 years and watched them take care of their house, spending lots of time landscaping and redoing the deck. He said everything they do is top notch. He said he feels the value of the Rudisell property has increased, as has his own property value.

Martha Moffitt, 523 Normandy Court, then addressed Council, stating no one on Normandy Court was made aware of the garage structure going in and they only found out when they received the postcard from PDS about the hearing. She said the Rudisells did not speak to anyone about the plans. Mr. Rudisell said he spoke to the neighbors with adjoining property ahead of time. Ms. Moffitt said she was shocked on what was planned. Mayor Hatter said the Rudisells do not have an obligation to tell anyone their plans. Ms. Moffitt agreed. Mr. Rudisell said if he had not gone for the variance, he would have already had a garage built and would not have needed any of these meetings. Ms. Moffitt said she prefers that the garage be brick to blend in with the other homes.

Heather Rudisell, 1736 Monticello Drive, addressed Council saying her and her husband have lived there for 11 years and do not want to cause battles and strife. She said they are approachable, but when they have gone to speak with neighbors one went in the other direction and the other shut a door in her husband's face. She continued, saying they have a unique lot on which they would like to build. She said they pay property taxes and will follow guidelines set by PDS.

Michelle Hammers, 522 Normandy Court, addressed Council, questioning if it matters what the residents of Normandy Court say, as the issue has already decided and cannot be changed. Mayor Hatter said that Council has no legal authority to change the decision. He confirmed with Mr. McMurtry that there is no action for Council to take. Mr. McMurtry confirmed, stating the only action is for Mr. Bethel to approve or deny the curb cut. Mayor Hatter said the ordinance should be addressed by Council moving forward.

Michael Schmidt, 1747 Monticello Drive, addressed Council next, asking if anyone from Council had driven by to see the property. Councilmembers Abeln, Witt, and Wessels confirmed they have driven by recently. There was discussion about the staking. Mayor Hatter said PDS will look at the everything again before the permit is issued to be sure it complies with the ordinances.

Mr. Schmidt asked if he can hire an attorney, as he feels the proposed changes will destroy the character of the neighborhood. He also said because of how close it is proposed to be to his house he thinks it will devalue his property. Mayor Hatter said he can do that and reminded him that the City does not have a moral, ethical, or legal right to do anything in this situation. Mr. Schmidt said he would go through civil court and hire an attorney.

Mayor Hatter finished on this matter saying there are two issues that should be addressed. The first is if the City should deny the curb cut request. The second is that the ordinances should be revisited to minimize this impact in the future. He confirmed again there is no action to be taken by Council and that whatever the property owners come up with they will ensure it is 100% in compliance with City ordinances.

Municipal Order 02-2020 – Disposal of Surplus Property – Ms. Bailey addressed Council, saying there is a need to dispose of outdated and nonworking computers, servers, and electronic equipment. Mr. McMurtry read Municipal Order 02-2020, an order declaring surplus property and authorizing disposal of such property by destruction and/or recycling.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve Municipal Order 02-2020. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

1837 Beacon Hill – Water Drainage Repair Request – Mr. Bethell said there is an issue with water coming down the sidewalk and driveway and, at times, into the homeowner's basement. He said the existing drain is not sufficient to catch the water. Martin Hellman, City Engineer, addressed Council, explaining that the home sits lower than the road and the driveway drains away from the road and causes some flooding in the home. He confirmed that the existing drain is a contributing factor. He said upstream there is a trench drain meant to collect water, but the openings are narrow and do not extend the full width of the sidewalk. Mr. Hellman said Mr. Bethell has video of water passing this trench drain.

Mr. Hellman offered two options. The first is to reconstruct the drain out to the road, which would include redoing the sidewalk, as well as replacement of the driveway for more elevation. He said the homeowner would also be responsible for part of the driveway. He said this also asks the homeowner do regrading and additional draining infrastructure. He said this option would cost approximately \$25,000 conservatively. Mr. Hellman said the second option is to replace the existing trench drain and reconnect it with the larger pipe to the catch basin, which should collect the majority of water with bigger storms and will collect the water that is coming from the right-of-way. He said this replacement drain would be ADA compliant. He added that this option also asks the homeowner to do some things but would cost the City approximately \$3,500. Mr. Hellman said this is the option he recommends using first to see if it addresses the issue.

Mayor Hatter asked who approved that drain to be placed there as he remembers at one time the homeowners were responsible for their sidewalks. Mr. Bethell said he does not know how long that drain has existed. The Mayor also asked about the high grass and Mr. Bethell explained that the edging of grass along sidewalks causes channels which redirect water. He also said the drain is not as wide as the sidewalk, so the drain only catches some water but not everything.

Councilman Wessels said he has gone out to the site with Mr. Bethell and Rick Kennedy, the homeowner's contractor. He said he respectfully disagrees with the engineering report and thinks that the new street and driveway apron should have alleviated some of the problems when it was replaced years ago. He also was not sure it should cost \$3,500 to replace the drain. Councilman Wessels said Mr. Kennedy proposed taking care of the concrete work during replacement of the driveway and it would be re-sloped toward the street. He did say they do not have this in writing from the homeowner and asked Mr. Bethell to follow up on that. Councilman Wessels also said he thinks increasing the drain and pipe size would take care of the issue.

After discussion about the photos provided, Mayor Hatter confirmed that all of Council agrees that a replacement should take place, but a decision about which option needs to be made. He suggested doing the \$3,500 option first to see if it corrects the problem. After confirming that the homeowner would be fixing their driveway along with the fix from the City, Councilmembers agreed to proceed with that option. Mayor Hatter confirmed no formal action is needed and Mr. Bethell and Mr. Hellman can proceed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee – Councilman Feinauer said the Committee has discussed some of the improvements that will be coming to 3L/Madison Pike/Kentucky 17 since Senator Chris McDaniel announced at the last Council meeting that funding for improvements was given. He said that takes pressure off the City to do that work. He also said they continue to work on drawings for City signage at

the Interstate 71/75 north and southbound ramps. Ms. Bailey said the design firm should be sending renderings based on Committee suggestions by the end of the week.

Councilman Feinauer said they will be replacing the wooden welcome signs at City limits with newer, aesthetically pleasing signs. He said the City must stay within federal design guidelines for the Atlanta region, as that is where Kentucky is located. He said Ohio is in a different region and has different rules, so Fort Wright cannot do some of the welcome signage they would like. Mayor Hatter commented on that point, saying the federal highway district corridor regions have different rules and Kentucky cannot do some of the nicer signage and entry-point welcome setups like cities across the Ohio River can, even though the City is willing to spend its own money on these projects. He also thanked Senator McDaniel again for the State stepping up to do the work on 3L/Madison Pike/KY-17, as it is their road and he appreciated not having to spend City resources to fix it.

Councilman Weber asked if anyone had reached out to Senator McDaniel or State Representative Kim Banta for assistance with the federal highway design issues. Councilman Feinauer said he plans to do that. He also intends to ask them both for any other contacts that may be able to help with the project. He continued saying the Committee will continue to work on the renderings within current guidelines, as well as a landscaping plan. Ms. Bailey said she wanted to pay compliments to the staff of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, specifically Lindsey Greenfield, for helping with each step of the application process, saying they have been fantastic to work with.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Abeln said there have been no significant activities for the Committee. Mayor Hatter commented that even despite the pandemic the City has still seen some economic development. Councilman Feinauer asked about the progress on Smoothie King and the incoming car wash. Ms. Bailey said both have been permitted, with the car wash moving forward. She said Smoothie King has not moved forward yet. She said a new storage facility has submitted structural plans for review. She also mentioned Payroll Partners, a firm that has recently relocated to Fort Wright. She said they currently do business with the City and they project 100 employees will work in the City. Ms. Bailey said O'Reilly Auto Parts has not done anything with their property. She said the City continues to notify them of the concerns about and violations on their property, but violations are not enforceable at this time.

Mayor Hatter commented on that point, saying the City takes issues with property very seriously and run-down, dilapidated structures do nothing for anyone. He said Kentucky Senate Bill 150, an emergency order issued because of the pandemic, prevents the City from enforcing any violations until it is lifted. He said most people are reasonable and address concerns when brought to their. He continued, saying that if someone does not want to bring their property up to standards right now, there is no enforcement option and nothing the City can do except make sure it is listed with PDS. Ms. Bailey said there has been an uptick in complaints, which could be because more people are home right now and identifying concerns they see. She said staff are addressing the issues as they come up, but reiterated that there are no enforcement opportunities at this time.

Finance Committee – Councilman Wessels said the audit is coming up at the end of August. Ms. Bailey said Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis and City Accountant Ben Harrison will take the lead with Van Gorder, Walker & Co., the accounting firm handling the audit.

Councilman Wessels commented that there is a need to reschedule the presentations by the new bank and investment firm, and Ms. Bailey said she is working to schedule those at the next caucus meeting in two weeks.

Human Resources Committee – Councilman Weber said there is nothing to report at this time. Mayor Hatter commented about the resignation of a Public Works employee, saying the City is actively hiring for that position. He also said the City is still looking to hire one more police officer, and that posting will also be coming. Mayor Hatter said an offer for one police officer position was extended to Nick Von Handorf, a former Fort Wright Police Officer, and he will be sworn in on August 16th. Police Chief Ed Butler confirmed there is still one opening to fill and Ms. Bailey commented that they are anticipating another opening by the end of the year due to retirement.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey said she would like to discuss the upcoming Battery Hooper Days at the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. She said because of the ongoing pandemic, there are government and local health department restrictions and this event is scheduled for August 15th and 16th. She said there is also the ongoing easement issue with the church, and there are concerns about this event moving forward. Mayor Hatter said he has concerns about the event proceeding from a liability perspective. He said there are lawsuits against employers whose employees who have gotten sick and he does not, in good conscious, want the event to proceed without a blessing from Council.

Mr. Bernard O'Bryan, President of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, addressed Council regarding the event. He said that three pages of protocols have been sent to Ms. Bailey and they were approved by St. Elizabeth Healthcare, who have signed on as a major sponsor of the event. He said he does not think they would have signed on if there were concerns with protocols. He said they awarded a \$1,500 grant and, if declined, it would be a lot of work to get them to sponsor again or get another sponsor.

Mr. O'Bryan said the Museum is already open Friday through Sunday and there is a flow for people to follow when they come in the door, as well as requirements for masks and limiting the number of people inside at any time. He said there would be no major changes to this for Battery Hooper Days as the majority of the event is outside and there will not be a petting zoo, food for sale, public speakers for crowds to gather around, or music. He said there will be a field hospital for people to look at in small groups and in the front yard there will be artillerists, with partitions for crowd control. He mentioned the parking easement, saying they will be taking advantage of the parking space and he said he thinks this strengthens the case for maintaining the easement.

Mr. O'Bryan said they have been working to plan this for a long time and at a week-and-a-half out there is not much time to cancel now. He continued, explaining that the nationally recognized organization presenting the field hospital is insured for \$1 million and the artillerist unit is also self-insured. He said all the Museum is asking of the City is to allow people to come into the Park, which the City already allows. He said he is not expecting a large crowd but does think it is important to hold the event, especially for the topical discussions around diseases. Mr. O'Bryan said cancelling the event would weaken the case for the easement as well as make it more difficult to obtain sponsorships in the future. He said the community enjoys the event and it is one of the few activities he thinks can be enjoyed in a safe manner right now. He closed by saying he hopes the City will consider allowing the Museum to hold this event that has been going on for 15 years.

Ms. Bailey asked Mr. O'Bryan to have the two organizations name on their insurance policies the City as a third-party. She said she will also need to speak with the City's insurance company, specifically about the cannon that is fired. Mr. O'Bryan said the cannon is fired over a ravine, in a roped off area, and there is no cannonball or projectile shot.

Councilman Wessels asked if St. Elizabeth Healthcare provided anything in writing regarding the protocols established. Ms. Bailey said nothing in writing has been provided to her, and she will need that with the date it was approved because of recent updates from the Governor regarding festivals and gatherings. Councilman Wessels also asked that Mr. O'Bryan check with the Northern Kentucky Health Department to be sure local protocols are followed.

Mayor Hatter asked Mr. McMurtry to share his thoughts from a legal perspective. Mr. McMurtry said the chances of anyone getting sick in an outdoor situation are slim, but if the City has reliable authorities, such as St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the Northern Kentucky Health Department, say the plan conforms with the law then there is no liability. Mr. O'Bryan said he would contact both entities and get back to Ms. Bailey as soon as possible.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – City Clerk Maura Russell announced that the food truck event will continue for an additional three weeks, through Tuesday, August 24th. Ms. Russell announced that she has completed the first year of a three-year training program for the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Association. She also said the South Hills Civic Club rentals for August were cancelled and refunded and no reservations are being accepted at this time. Mayor Hatter reminded residents that this pause on holding events and accepting reservations at the Civic Club was due to the increased liability and cost with cleaning. Councilwoman Witt asked if other cities had reopened their community centers and spaces. Mr. Russell said she would ask around for information.

She closed by saying she is working with Ms. Bailey on employee and resident appreciation events for the remainder of the year.

Fire/ALS Department – Fire Chief Steve Schewe said the new radio system was installed and went into service today, and the Police Department went into service yesterday. He said everything is working well and there is much better reception. He thanked Dan Matthew and the team at Kenton County Dispatch for the testing they have been doing to go through every radio in the County, saying they sounded very professional.

Chief Schewe also the new ambulance was picked up on July 24th and went into service on August 3rd, and he said it is working beautifully. He said he anticipates having the older ambulance ready to declare as surplus in the next month. He thanked Council for allowing the Fire Department to purchase the vehicle.

Legal Counsel – Mr. McMurtry said the Devou Lofts settlement has been approved and will be discussed during Executive Session.

Police Department – Chief Butler again wished Officer Arnsperger well in retirement. He said Nick Von Handorf starts on August 16th and will require only a little training because he has worked here previously and is familiar with the community and department policies. He said they were working hard

to fill the other spot quickly. Chief Butler echoed Chief Schewe's comments, commending Dispatch for the new radios and testing. He said Public Works will be receiving their new radios soon, which will integrate the whole City.

Chief Butler said a commendation was written by Sergeant Robert Griffin for Officers Desiree Getz and Taylor Bellau for their efforts in rescuing a woman passed out on the hillside. He said that goes to show that policing is not all about arresting people and statistics and that the officers are all doing a great job in the community. He closed by saying the safety equipment requested in the budget has started to come in.

Councilman Abeln said the City can get all the new ambulances, radios, and equipment out there, but at the end of the day it is the people who make this City great. Mayor Hatter echoed those comments, saying he is proud of the team put together here and of Council for responsibly doing things, like reducing liability and not spending money on things the City does not need, so the City can get the best people possible.

Councilman Weber asked about the issue with cars on Sleepy Hollow next to St. Agnes, with school starting soon, and how that will be addressed. Chief Butler said the department will do what it can from a resource standpoint to make sure no one gets hurt. He asked everyone to be cautious in that area and he will look into additional signage as well as manpower to improve the situation. Ms. Bailey reminded Council that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet requested the City spend approximately \$60,000 moving crossings for new sidewalks which is why the City worked with the Kenton County Sheriff to assist the school crossing guard with new gear and information. She said now that school will be returning the issue does need to be revisited. Chief Butler said he already planned to speak with the St. Agnes principal and will add this to their agenda items.

Public Works – Mr. Bethell said his team continues to stay on top of mowing and completed hot patching this month. He said they did a big clean up at Battery Hooper Park, improving the steps, mulching the playground, and removing the sandbox. He said Amsterdam Road is moving along, with the drill shaft pier wall still being installed. Mr. Bethell said JPS has started work on Helen Ruth and will move onto Ridgemont in a few weeks. He said he has been in communication with the residents of Ridgemont via email.

Mr. Bethell provided an update on the intersection of Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway, saying it was closing in on completion. He said signage has been installed on the mast arm poles and arrows will be painted in the lanes soon. He said he has not received an update from SD1 [Sanitation District of Northern Kentucky] about Fort Henry recently.

Councilman Wessels asked about the SD1 project at the Fort Wright Nature Center on Highland Pike. Mr. Bethell said they are stringing pipe and fusing it together and will be pulling the pipe back through in the next two to three weeks.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that SD1 handles all the sewer systems in Fort Wright and Northern Kentucky, but if there is debris covering grates the City can help in clearing those. He said Mr. Bethell and his team are proactive in addressing the debris before and after rain events, but if residents see an area that needs to be addressed to send an email or call if they cannot get in touch with SD1.

Councilman Feinauer asked about the progress of the stabilization on Don Martin Drive. Mr. Bethell said the piers are in and he and Mr. Hellman were at the site recently. He also said the end of the roadway will need to be addressed soon. He said the fire hydrants have been in for a few weeks.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter read special recognition letters for Police Officers Desiree Getz, Taylor Bellau, and Benjamin Wiesner. He also recognized Ms. Bailey for receiving an award from the International City/County Management Association for 25 years of local government service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hatter requested a motion to adjourn to Executive Session under KRS 61.810 (1)(c) – Discussions of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency. A motion was made by Councilman Feinauer. Councilman Wall made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:03 PM.

The Council Meeting was reopened to the public at 8:23 PM.

Mayor Hatter said there is one item to act on following the Executive Session, regarding the loan offer to the Devou Lofts Homeowner's Association for property improvements. He said the loan will be for \$25,000 with a lien on property and pay off with interest will be over 73 months.

Mr. McMurtry read Resolution 13-2020, authorizing the issuance of a loan to the Devou Lofts Homeowner's Association for construction of improvements benefitting public right-of-way in the City of Fort Wright.

Mayor Hatter said this is a tough situation which was made more difficult because of the pandemic. He said the damage to their infrastructure is causing damage to City property. He commended Council for their outside-the-box thinking in coming up with a solution as the City and Council have a financial and legal duty to not spend public money on private property. Mayor Hatter continued, saying this approach shows empathy and compassion for the situation and the arrangement is very fair to the Homeowner's Association and the residents whose taxes are paying for this improvement. He said he hopes Council can maintain this stance in the future when residents are in a tough spot and Councilmembers can be open-minded for solutions.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Resolution 13-2020. Councilman Feinauer made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Abeln made a second. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:


Maura Russell, City Clerk