

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

9/05/07 – 6:00PM

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Joe Averdick, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Dave Hatter and Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr. Also present were City Administrator Larry Klein, City Attorney Pete Summe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods.

There were no citizen comments.

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Averdick to approve the minutes of the 08/01/07 Regular Council Meeting. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Hatter Nienaber and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Wall to approve the minutes of the 08/20/07 Special Council Meeting. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Averdick, Hatter and Nienaber voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mayor Weaver advised that Chief Schewe would like to introduce the new employees in the Fire/EMS Department. He stated that we have re-aligned positions to add three Lieutenant positions to have 24 hour rotations. Mike Harris, Cynthia Beyer-Ford and Greg Vogel will be filling these positions. Greg Vogel is a 20 year veteran with the Newport Fire Department, with an extensive background and serves part-time with Erlanger Fire Department. Cynthia has worked for Alexandria, Erlanger and Central Campbell Fire Departments. Both she and her husband are both firefighters and paramedics. Mike Harris has been with Fort Wright as a firefighter/EMT and is now also a paramedic. Both Cynthia and Greg thanked Council for the opportunity to work for Fort Wright and are looking forward to it. Mike Harris has been in the hospital the last couple of days and could not attend tonight's meeting. Chief Schewe advised so far it is working out very well.

Gene thanked Chief Schewe for working this out and stated that is a great step forward for our City.

Executive Order 10-07 – Appointment of Fire/EMS Lieutenant – Beyer-Ford

Mr. Summe read this Executive Order. Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Feinauer to approve. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Averdick, Nienaber and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Executive Order 11-07 – Appointment of Fire/EMS Lieutenant – Vogel

Mr. Summe read this Executive Order. Motion by Mr. Nienaber, second by Mr. Wall to approve. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Averdick, Hatter and Feinauer voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Executive Order 12-07 – Appointment of Fire/EMS Lieutenant – Harris

Mr. Summe read this Executive Order. Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Wall to approve. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Averdick, Hatter and Nienaber voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mayor Weaver asked Chief Schewe to convey Council's congratulation to Mike Harris who was not feeling well and could not attend the meeting.

Second Reading of Ordinance 5-07 – Establishing FYE 2007/2008 Waste Collection Fee

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. This establishes the rate of \$134.28 per residential dwelling unit per year. Motion by Mr. Nienaber, second by Mr. Feinauer to approve. Roll call vote taken, Averdick, Wolnitzek and Wall voting in favor, Hatter abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Second Reading of Ordinance 6-07 – Establishing 2007/2008 Property Tax Rate

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance in summary. This establishes the real property tax as \$.206 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation and for personal property \$.243 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation.

Mr. Klein stated that we do have the second lowest property tax rate in Kenton County. We are always looking for ways to cut cost and stretch our budget. Discussion followed.

Mr. Averdick stated that since the City is fiscally sound we should not always automatically take the 4% increase. Mayor Weaver stated that since we passed a current year budget the extra income of \$30,000.00 was added from the property tax increase and we would have to cut it by that amount to balance it out.

Motion by Mr. Wolnitzek, second by Mr. Wall to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer, Nienaber and Hatter voting in favor, Averdick voting no. Motion passed.

First Reading of Ordinance 7-06 – Zoning Text Amendment – Floodplain Regulations

Mr. Klein advised this proposed Ordinance amends the text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to update it with new floodplain regulations and make us consistent with FEMA regulations. This allows residents of these special floodplain areas to obtain insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. This is for any new or existing development. Mr. Summe read this Ordinance. Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Feinauer to approve. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Averdick, Nienaber and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

First Reading of Ordinance 8-07 – Zoning text Amendment – Moratorium on Electronic Billboard and Other Billboard Signage

Mr. Summe read this Ordinance. Mr. Klein advised that the NKAPC has hired a consultant to review all our local sign ordinances and updating them to be constitutionally valid. This will put a moratorium on permits issued for electronic signs, not on building façade or regular signs. This moratorium would be in place until 12/31/07 and at that time NKAPC would have their model sign ordinance out for all Cities. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Wall to approve. Roll call vote taken, Averdick voting in favor, Wolnitzek, Hatter and Nienaber voting no. Mayor Weaver attempted to break the tie of votes by voting yes, but City Attorney Pete Summe advised that he could not vote on zoning issues. Motion failed.

Municipal Order 4-07 – Incentives for Fire/EMS Department Volunteers

Mr. Summe read this Municipal Order. Motion by Nienaber, second by Mr. Hatter to approve. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Feinauer and Wall voting in favor, Averdick abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed. Chief Schewe advised this Order will not change the budget, but give more incentive to sign up for shifts and show up for runs.

A slide show was shown of the Battery Hooper Days festivities on August 18th & 19th. Mayor Weaver advised that it was very good weather for this event. Mr. Klein advised we had about 1300 people in attendance. Thanks to everyone involved in making this day a huge success.

Battery Hooper Park Improvements

City Engineer was Mark Brueggemann was present at the meeting to answer any questions that Council may have for the revisions of the Battery Hooper Park Plan. Mr. Hatter stated that he wanted to see the bottom line number for the revised smaller shelter house and larger playground. There was a copy of an e-mail from Phil Partridge of CDS Associates Inc., included in the packet. Mr. Wolnitzek stated that he thought Council should move forward with the larger project because the City can afford to do it and provide to the citizens of Fort Wright a whole City, not just Police, Fire and Public Works services. We have to look forward and if we are not ready to spend the money, we should shelve the project until we are ready. Mr. Nienaber stated that the first proposal came back at almost \$2,000,000.00 and Council was not in favor of spending that amount of money. He thinks we should explore creating the park in phases and look for Grants and private funding. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nienaber made a motion that we accept the \$1,093,000.00 plan and proceed with Phase 1, which are the two smaller shelter houses and the playground area and set up a plan for a financing in two phases. Mr. Hatter suggested that Mr. Nienaber add to this motion that we designate Phase I, which would be the playground, picnic shelters and whatever we need to go along with making this happen and have a price before we proceed. Phase II would be unfunded until we have a plan in place to complete the project. Discussion followed. Mr. Nienaber withdrew his motion.

Mr. Wolnitzek motioned that we accept the plan with the larger shelter house at \$1,500,000.00 June proposal and move forward with the project. Motion died for lack of a second to the motion.

Mr. Wall stated that he likes the idea of phasing this project and would like to consider the roughly \$1,000,000.00 plan. Take out the secondary shelter houses, the playground, some of the hardscape, leave some of the woodchip trails or gravel trails. This will get us down to \$850,000.00 and we would have \$150,000.00 left in grant money, which leaves us at \$600,000.00. Mr. Wall advised he would second a motion like that and to go after grant money and funding. Motion by Mr. Wall to accept Phase I, which would be the 44x41 shelter house only at roughly \$600,000.00, including earthwork and utilities, everything else comes from private funding. Motion died for lack of a second to the motion.

Motion by Mr. Wolnitzek to shelve this entire project; quit talking about it because there is no consensus among Council. We are wasting everyone's time, table the plans and put it on the

shelf until we are ready. This would take an active Council to resurrect the plan and move forward. Motion seconded by Mr. Wall. Discussion followed. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer and Averdick voting in favor, Hatter and Nienaber voting no, motion passed.

Administrator Report

Museum Update

The largest ever tour visited the Museum on August 25th with 150 members from USS Forrestal reunion. They all enjoyed the Museum very much and a donation was made in the amount of \$200.00 for the Museum. Many volunteers were available that day to answer questions and help with the tour.

9/11 Events

September 11th we will be asking anyone who is interested to come up to the front lawn of the City Building at 6:00PM to participate in a group photo and to donate items that can be sent to the troops along with the photo. Flags will also be placed in the front yards of every residence that wants one again this year.

Eagle Scout Projects at Battery Hooper Park

Thanks to all the Scouts, families and Scout Leaders who participated in the projects in our parks in the City. Thanks also to Tim and the Public Works Department for their help getting materials and assisting the Scouts.

Public Archaeological Excavations on September 16th and 29th

There will be two more archaeological excavations scheduled for anyone who would like to participate. Call the City Building to register.

Sewer Overflow Settlement for cities in Kentucky

Flyer of a press release in the packet regarding Cities not complying with the Federal Clean Water Act. They have to address their violations, plus pay fines. This shows that the threat of the Government is very real.

Saint Anthony/Marcella Avenues

Mr. Maloney advised there is about 3 weeks left for this project. They are putting down asphalt and then restoration will be done according to the weather. Residents and visitors of these streets have been very cooperative.

Council Committee Reports

Computer Technology

Mr. Hatter advised he has received and is working on the tax program for 2007.

Legal Matters

Ms. Classic Car Wash, Wessels LLC vs SD1 and City of Fort Wright, et al

We will adjourn to executive session for these matters.

Long Range Plan

Mr. Feinauer advised the Vision Committee meeting will be on Thursday. Information from tonight's meeting will be passed along.

Council Committee Reports

City Clerk Joyce Woods reported 2007 tax bills will be processed and mailed the 1st or 2nd week of October.

Public Works Director Tim Maloney reported his department is working on street repairs around town. He stated that he thinks the Park Plan is a very good one and in the end he thinks everyone will come together.

Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe thanked Council for allowing him to create and fill two Lieutenant positions. This will bring the department to a higher level. There has been a higher

than usual water main breaks throughout the City, the dry weather and shifting ground is what is causing this problem. If you see one please call the Fire Department or Northern Kentucky Water District. Mulch fires are also popping up, please be careful if throwing out cigarettes or matches.

Police Chief Dan Kreinest reported that the Police Department was awarded today, from Governor Fletcher, a check for \$70,000.00 for traffic enforcement, which is a matching grant.

Equipment for new cameras is arriving and being installed. There were two burglaries in the Lookout area, one on General Drive and one on Tyler Court. Please watch out in your neighborhood for anyone who does not belong or anything that you think is strange and call the police immediately.

More traffic in the area with schools are back I session. Traffic enforcement being done in areas that have been a problem.


Mr. Hatter suggested an article in the Top of the Hills News reminding residents to please call immediately when they think is not right. Mr. Feianuer also encouraged residents to take advantage of vacation checks by the Police Department.

Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Nienaber to adjourn to executive session per KRS61.810(c), concerning pending litigation. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek, Wall, Feinauer and Averdick voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Wall, second by Mr. Feinauer to adjourn back to legislative session. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Wall, second by Mr. Feinauer to close legislative session. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest:



Joyce Woods, City Clerk