



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM by Councilman Adam Feinauer following the conclusion of the Public Hearing and Special Council Meeting.

The following Councilmembers were present for the meeting:

Councilman Abeln
Councilman Feinauer
Councilman Weber
Councilman Wessels
Councilwoman Witt

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell
City Engineers Mark Brueggemann and Martin Hellmann

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Jason Worms, 433 Pickett Drive – Mr. Worms addressed Council regarding adopting a Fairness Ordinance, similar to those passed in other local cities. There was discussion regarding these ordinances and concerns about the effects on business owners. After discussion, Council requested Mr. Worms provide them with additional information so they can make a more informed decision.

Greta Elenbaas, 433 Pickett Drive – Ms. Elenbaas addressed Council regarding affordable housing, saying she was told by the Kenton County Fiscal Court the matter would require a regional approach. She asked Council if they had any suggestions on who she could work with to move this along.

Ms. Bailey advised Ms. Elenbaas that there has been a lot of regional discussion around affordable housing, and she knows that NKADD [Northern Kentucky Area Development District] is participating in the discussions. Ms. Bailey also said the local Judge/Executives have also had recent conversations about affordable housing, and that Tri-Ed [Northern Kentucky Tri-Ed] has also had discussions recently about this topic. Ms. Elenbaas said she was directed to address this at the City level. Councilman Wessels said this is also being discussed by the Kenton County Planning Commission. He recommended speaking with Sharmili Reddy.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mt. Vernon Water Drainage Issue (Bigney) – Mr. Hellmann addressed Council with an updated presentation for the work they suggest doing to address the water drainage issues at 1868 Mount Vernon. He presented three options but recommended the first option as it would not require adding in storm sewers or reconstructing the road. Mr. Hellmann suggested storm sewers be added in when the street comes back up on the City's Street Plan.

Mr. Hellmann said the first option will flip the sidewalk so it slopes toward the road, grade the yard slightly, and slope the sidewalk in front of the driveway. He said the next step with this will be to have a field survey completed. Council agreed to move forward with this option.

There was additional discussion about rebuilding the street when it comes up on the City's street plan and the options that would be involved, including adding additional storm water infrastructure.

KY 17 Dudley/Madison & 275 East Ramp Re-Alignment – Ms. Bailey discussed the information Mr. Brueggemann received from the state regarding a redesign of the Dudley Road/Madison Pike/275 Exit Ramp. She said Dudley Road will no longer exit at its current location, but will be moved south, using Sperti Drive and exit through the "Michels" property. She said there is money in this project to reconstruct some medians, but only those within this project zone.

Ms. Bailey said there will be barrier walls within this project, as the entrance to Dudley Road will be right-in and right-out only. She said the City is concerned about the impact to the Gateway Community and Technical College campus location across Dudley Road.

There was discussion about the impact of eliminating access to the Gateway property, along with the traffic signals and collector lanes. Ms. Bailey advised she would reach out to Senator Chris McDaniel, Representative Kim Banta, and the Kentucky Department of Transportation to address the City's concerns and future impact.

Williams Creek Development – Councilman Feinauer advised an email was sent from the Kenton County Planning Commission that the development has been approved with conditions. Ms. Bailey advised the zone change was approved to go from R-1D Single Family with Residential Cluster Overlay to R-1D PUD [Planned Unit Development] Overlay. She read from the KCPC letter regarding the conditions that apply, including a street stub or access easement be provided to the property to the north; the westernmost open space be provided with a path or trail system; and all required sidewalks to be constructed per the standards of the Subdivision Regulations.

Louise Kent, of 1981 WilliamsCreek Way, addressed Council. She said she has lived in a condo near the retention pond for 14 years and they were initially opposed to the development plans because the existing residents had been promised a condominium development when they purchased. She said they have taken time to meet with the developer and his staff and have seen other properties the developer has completed in Northern Kentucky. Ms. Kent said the developer has agreed to work with the existing residents to adjust structures to be more to their liking. She also said the HOA is working with an attorney to negotiate a written agreement for certain conditions with the developer.

There was discussion about the existing retention pond, and Ms. Kent said it is maintained by the HOA, but owned privately and they want to move that ownership to the developer. There was a concern about ambulance and fire access, but Chief Schewe advised there should be no problems.

Volunteer Park Proposed Improvements – Ms. Bailey advised Volunteer Park is over 20 years old and the wood has deteriorated. She said authorization has already been given to remove the existing structure, as well as funding set aside for new implements. Ms. Bailey said \$25,000 has been budgeted but there is a need for more funds because of the price of equipment.

Ms. Bailey presented two bids that have been received. She said GameTime proposed \$62,987 and Kompan proposed \$57,828, which includes a 15% state contract pricing discount. Ms. Bailey recommended going with Kompan. Council agreed to move forward with this project and Ms. Bailey advised she will place on the next legislative meeting agenda for official discussion and vote.

COFW Personnel Policy Update – Ms. Bailey advised this agenda item was going to be discussing updating the City's Personnel Policy regarding maternity, paternity, and adoption leave. She said the item is not yet ready for discussion and she will bring it back to Council once it is ready.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Abeln made a second. All voting in favor.

MOTION CARRIED

The Caucus Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk