



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 6:15 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Councilman Feinauer, following the adjournment of the Public Hearing.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Feinauer read from the Meeting Memo, stating the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and potentially act on an ordinance involving the adoption of the FY 21-22 tax rates and affiliated collection processes for both Real and Personal Property. He advised no other business would be addressed during this special meeting.

Ms. Bailey advised that calculated tax rates usually begin with compensating rates, which should result in the same revenue as last year. She gave the compensating real property tax rate information, saying it was 0.268, and read the other options, which included compensating + 1% at 0.271, compensating + 2% at 0.275, compensating + 3% at 0.277, and compensating + 4% at 0.278. Ms. Bailey said the Finance Committee is recommending keeping the rate the same as last year, at 0.265, which would equate to a slight reduction from compensating to bring in the same amount of revenue. She said based on property growth, a rate of 0.265 should bring in \$1,561,943.

Ms. Bailey said the same scenario exists for personal property taxes, with the Finance Committee proposing to maintain the rate of 0.409, which is estimated to bring in \$153,957.

Councilman Wessels said the Finance Committee's goal was to maintain the existing rates then soon work on rolling back the insurance premium tax. He said the long-term goal is to eliminate that tax completely, but the Committee understands that will be a challenge because it is a big revenue generator. Ms. Bailey confirmed the insurance premium tax brings in approximately \$850,000 each year.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to insert the real property tax rate of 0.265 and the personal property tax rate of 0.409 into the ordinance. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Theissen completed a first reading of Ordinance 12-2021, an Ordinance fixing the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, upon real estate, personal and mix property in the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky, and fixing the time and payment and penalty for non-payment of same.

Ms. Bailey advised that tax bills will be sent via mail in mid-November.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 12-2021. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Feinauer said an additional ordinance is being read to deal with uncertainties in the payment and delinquency protocols. He said this ordinance will be used to ensure staff and Council understand the process and the recourse for late payments. Ms. Bailey agreed, saying there were some holes that led to interpretation last year and this ordinance will eliminate those and provide specific guidance on acceptance and deadlines.

There was discussion among Councilmembers about postmarks being acceptable for payments received in the City Administration Building after December 31st. After discussion, Council opted to maintain that payments must be physically received by Administration staff on December 31st at 5 PM, unless postmarked.

Mr. Theissen completed a first reading of Ordinance 13-2021, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending Section 37.02 of the Code of Ordinances; establishing requirements

for payment of taxes, and protocols for imposition of penalties, interest and attorney fees to be charged in collecting delinquent taxes.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 13-2021. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Special Council Meeting. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:


Maura Russell
City Clerk