



# City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com) | 859.331.1700

## City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, September 4, 2024 - 6:00PM

### CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Mayor Dave Hatter following the close of the Public Hearing. City Clerk Kerrie Holland the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Present
Councilman Collins	Present
Councilman Wall	Absent
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Present
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Cain Bailey  
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe  
Police Chief Jonathan Colwell  
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell  
City Clerk Kerrie Holland  
Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson  
City Attorney John Brooking

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Aaron Currin, a Fort Wright resident & Democratic candidate for House District 65, introduced himself to the city and City Council. He stated that if he gets elected, he is willing and looks forward to working with everyone in the city.

### APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Wall	Absent
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilwoman Witt	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Absent	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilwoman Wessels	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF CAUCUS MINUTES**

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Absent	
Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilman Wessels	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Second reading of Ordinance 08-2024 – Adopting Z21**

Ms. Bailey reviewed information from the last meeting regarding incorporating the language that the distribution centers for medical cannabis should be in a stand-alone building.

Mr. Brooking reads the second reading of **Ordinance 08-2024 – Approving Z21.**

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve Ordinance 08-2024. Councilman Wessels made a second.

Councilman Collins and Councilman Wessels continue to discuss their concerns in regard to the potential odor and having the dispensary in a stand-alone building.

Ms. Bailey brings up that certain zones can only do certain things (as in a dispensary in a commercial zone-they can only dispense; they are not a grow or manufacturing facility).

Ms. Bailey also reminds council that they must have at least four council members vote in favor, for it to pass.

The Mayor asks for the roll call.

Ms. Holland called the role.

Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes
Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	No
Councilman Wall	Absent

MOTION CARRIED

**ST. AGNES OKTOBERFEST**

St. Agnes has asked The City of Fort Wright to help them with providing police assistance again for their annual Oktoberfest. In years past, we have provided them with police assistance for traffic control and barriers to help with the flow of traffic on Dixie Hwy during the festival. No one had any concerns or objections about providing this service again and it was agreed upon. The mayor spoke highly of the event and encouraged everyone to go check it out.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**First Reading of Ordinance 11-2024 – Adoption FY 2024/2025 Tax Rates**

Mayor Hatter discussed that property values went up substantially this year. In light of the inflation that we are all fighting, we are willing to ease the pain to the residents, but we still must consider being able to provide top notch services to the residents and community. The Mayor reminded everyone that The City of Fort Wright does not assess the property values, the PVA does.

Councilman Wessels and Councilman Weber discuss rising road maintenance costs and the City’s ability to maintain the road fund, but we will be unable to do so at the current rate due to the increase in costs. They inquire how we compare to other surrounding cities in regard to property taxes. The Mayor stated that we have the lowest payroll taxes and likely the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest property taxes in Kenton County.

Mr. Brooking completed the first reading of Ordinance 11-2024 – Adoption FY 2024/2025 Tax Rates.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 11-2024 of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes
Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Absent

MOTION CARRIED

**Executive Order 01-2024 – Appointment of Ethics Board Members**

Mayor Hatter led by informing everyone the background and history of the Ethics Board. One member serves 3 years, one serves 2 years, one serves 1 year, and you can appoint 2 additional alternate members for 1 year of service. The Mayor thanked those who have stepped up to be part of this board.

Mr. Brooking reads **Executive Order 01-2024 – Appointing Ethics Board Members.**

- Mr. Adam Feinauer, Board Member-Term expires 9/3/2027
- Mr. Timothy Theissen, Board Member-Term expires 9/3/2026
- Mr. Joseph Nienaber, Jr., Board Member-Term expires 9/3/2025
- Katie Baker, Alternate Board Member-Term expires 9/3/2025

Councilman Collins made a motion to adopt the Executive Order 01-2024 - Appointment of Ethic Board Members. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilwoman Wessels	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Absent	
Councilman Weber	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

**Protective Agreement with Kenton County re: Confidentiality of Tax Returns**

Ms. Bailey states that this is regarding the confidentiality of the City of Fort Wright staff and the software used when accessing the COLA/COLT website.

Mr. Brooking went over an explanation of the Protective Agreement and read the Protective Agreement into record.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the Protective Agreement. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Absent	
Councilman Wessels	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**CAO REPORT:** We are continuing training, there is a substantial amount of training for Kerrie and Nyoka. There is a lot of work for taxes behind the scenes. The Mayor encourages residents to sign up for communications, along with all of the things we do to get the word out. Ms. Bailey also informs everyone that we have a new intern, Kristina Cutsinger, shadowing the administration department. This is a non-paid position; she is only earning college credit hours.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

**Administration:** Ms. Holland reports that she is continuing to learn all of the responsibilities that the City Clerk position entails. Ms. Johnson reported that she is also continuing to learn the finance side and is working on taking over the role of Passport Manager operations as well.

**Fire Department-Chief Schewe:** New windows are going in throughout the building-to be completed on 9/5/24. They have also interviewed for another part-time position. Lithium Battery recycling and training are still being worked on. He stated to be careful when discarding materials that could cause mulch, and other things to catch fire-dry weather is a potential hazard. Jeff Hatter will be retiring at the end of September and a luncheon will be provided for him. Mayor Hatter thanked him for his service to the city.

**Legal:** Nothing to report.

**Police Department-Chief Colwell:** New speed sign and trailer were put up in the city. We are already gathering data. The speed trailer was on Amsterdam. The goal is to move the trailer throughout the city. Speed data was added to the website today. The Mayor appreciates the new equipment that the council approved to gather useful traffic data. The shred event in on September 21, 2024, from 9am-noon and the Mayor encouraged the residents to shred their personal documents to keep their information protected in a risk-free way.

**Public Works-Director Jeff Bethell:** Fort Henry is ongoing; we will open it in the next 3-4 weeks. George Huser is pretty much finished. This Saturday, September 7, 2024, Queen City Blacktop will be here milling the parking lot. Avoid the parking lot as best you can on that day. Paving-Tues/Weds and Striping-Thursdays.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Community Yard Sale this Friday(6<sup>th</sup>) and Saturday(7<sup>th</sup>) 8am-2pm. Need permit to participate, but no fee.

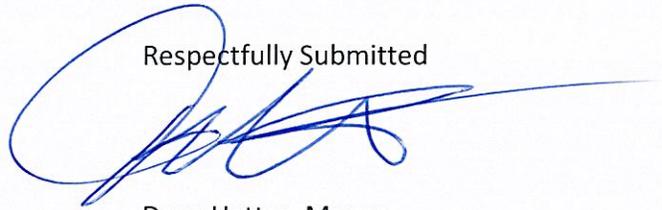
**EXECUTIVE SESSION-61.810(B)-Deliberations on the future acquisition or sale of real property by a public agency.** Councilman Wessels made a motion to go into the Executive Session. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll. The council went into executive session at 7:09pm and returned to chambers at 7:54pm.

Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilman Wall	Absent
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

**The Council Meeting was officially adjourned in the Executive Session @ 7:50pm.**

Respectfully Submitted



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Kerrie Holland, City Clerk